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*CONTAINING*

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THE RESIDENCES OF THE

NOBILITY, GENTRY, &c.

Accompanied with Biographical Notices of Eminent and Learned Men  
to whom this County has given Birth

BY MR E. W. BRAYLEY AND JOHN BRITTON, Esq. F S A

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*Illustrated with Ten Engravings and a Map.*

London :

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,

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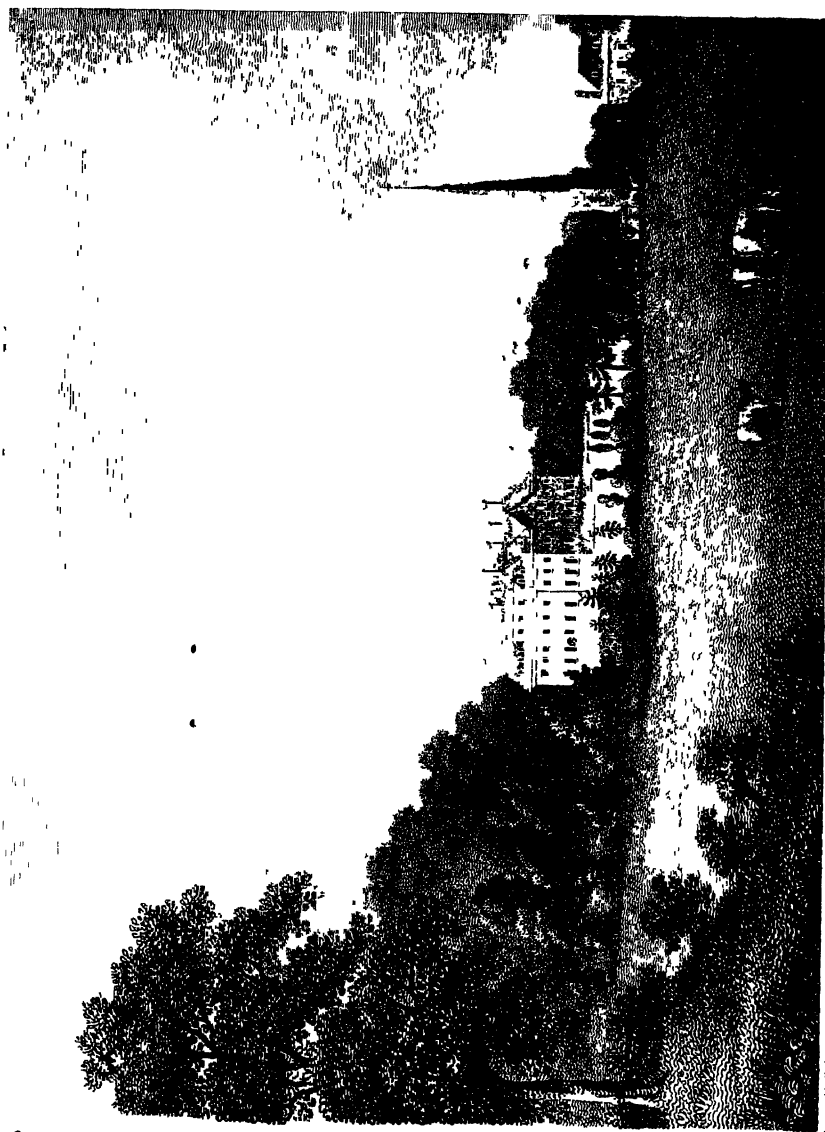
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North Hill, 1810 - 1811

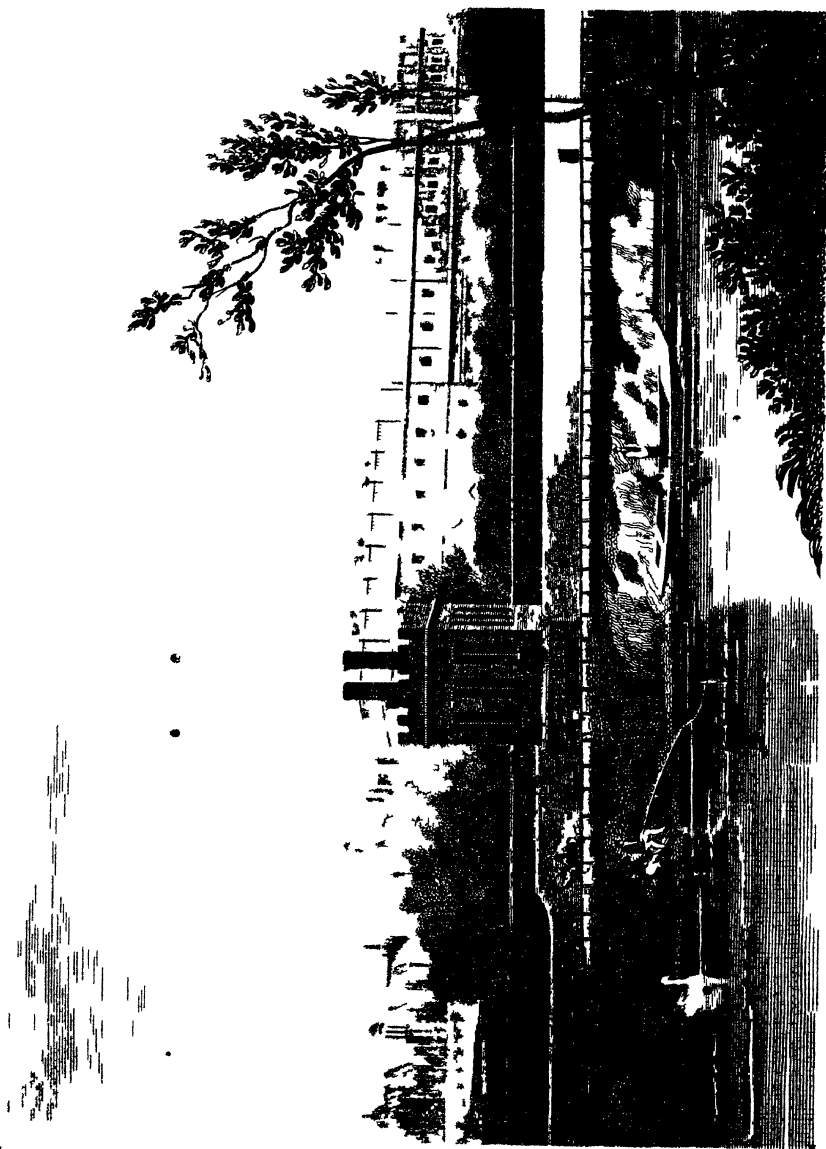
Figure 1, 1810 - 1811













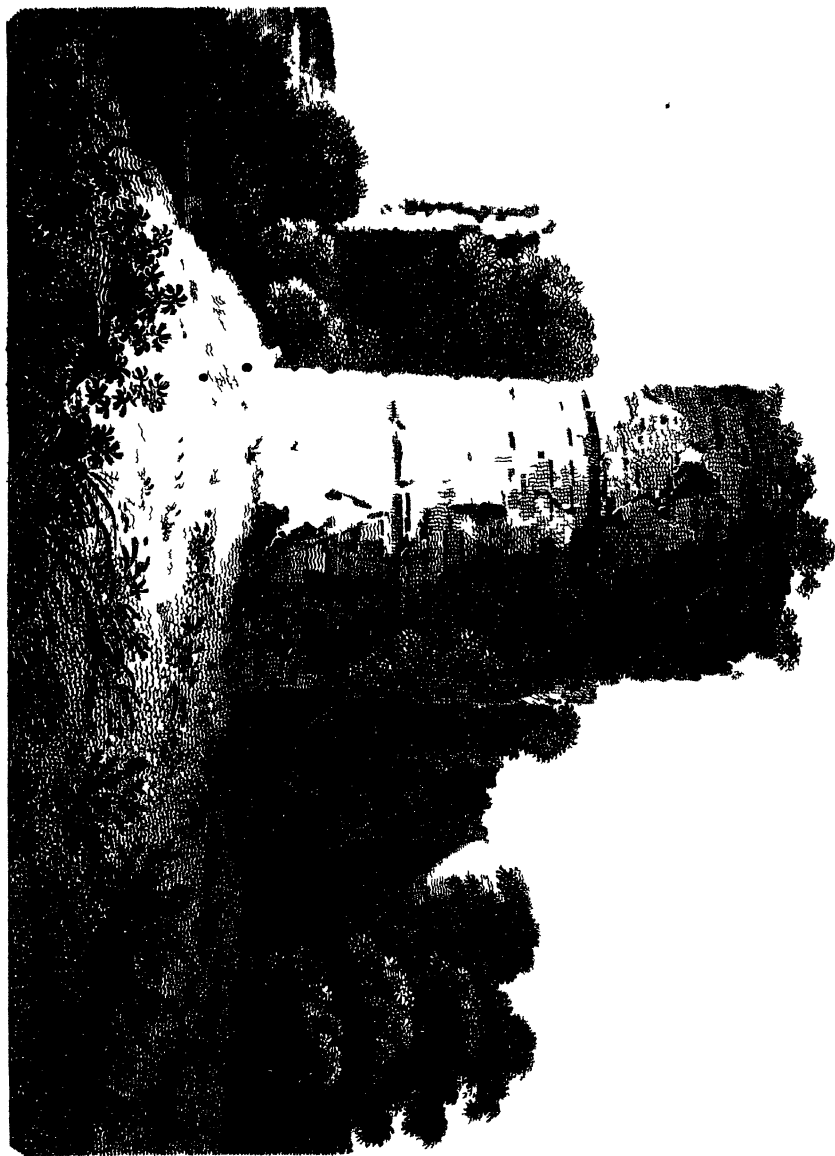




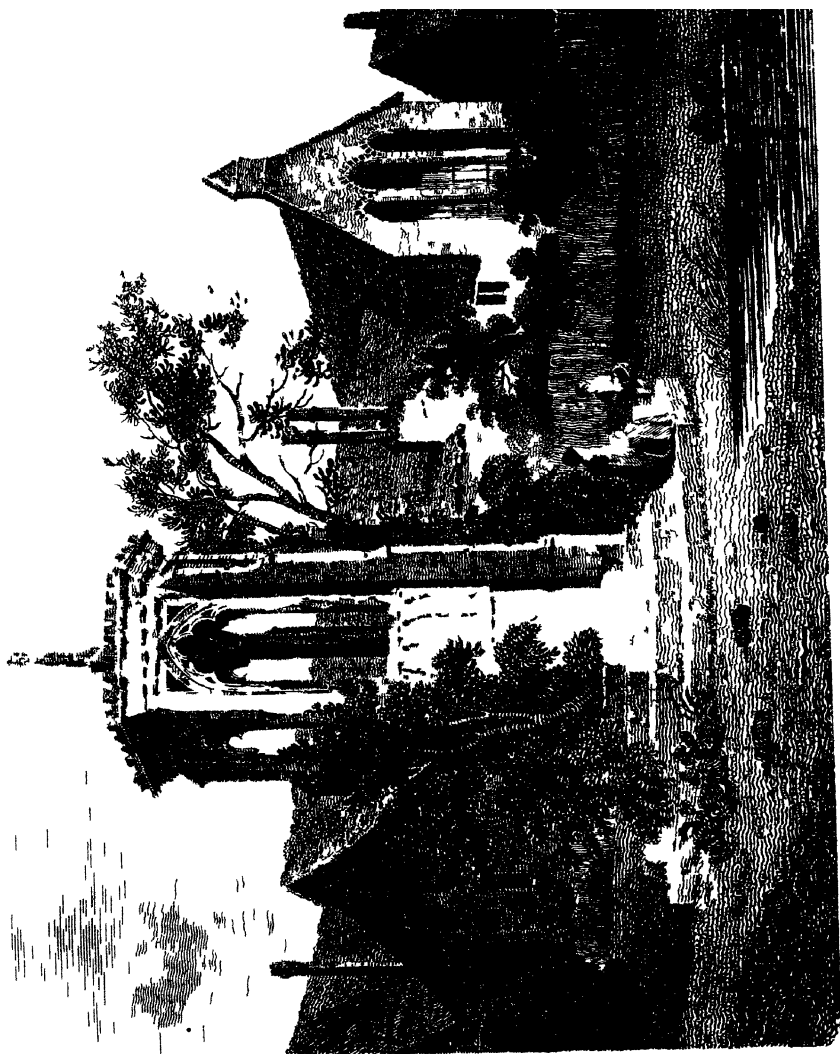








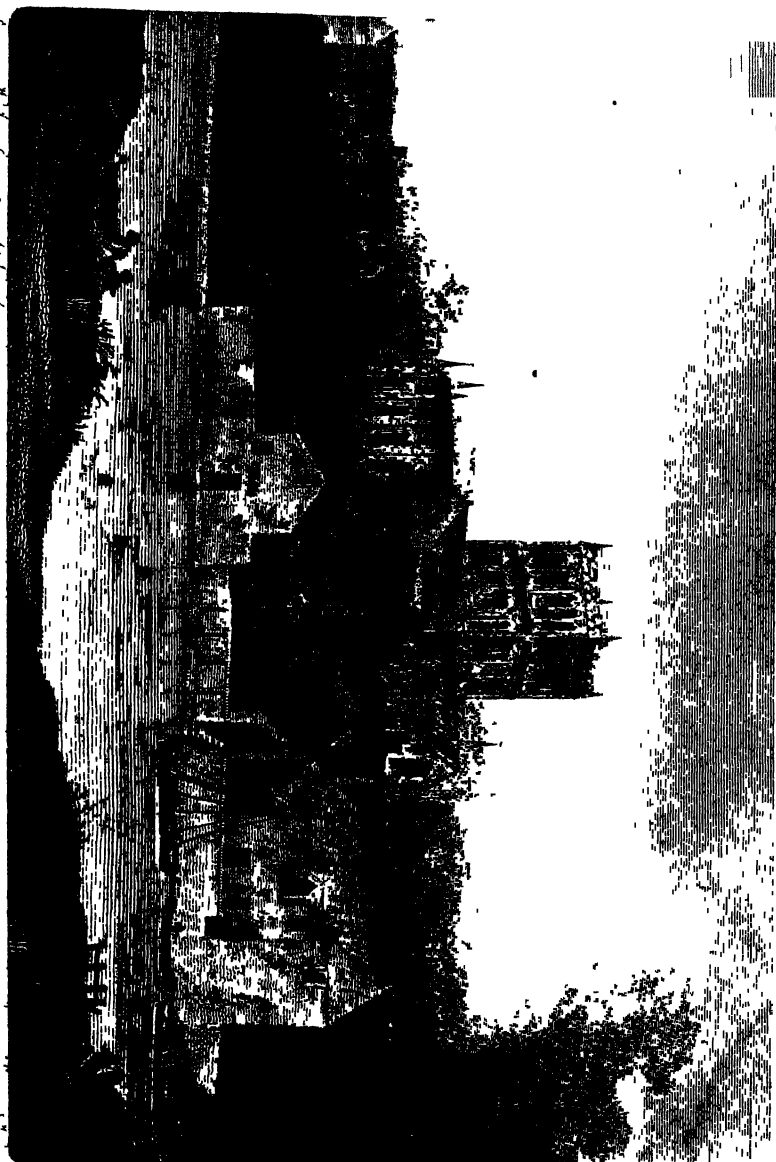












XVIII AL, 20

## HEREFORDSHIRE.

AT the period of the Roman Invasion, HEREFORDSHIRE was inhabited by the SILURES, who also occupied the adjacent counties of Radnor, Monmouth, and Glamorgan, together with that part of Gloucestershire which lies westward from the Severn. In the British language, this district was called indifferently, by the nearly synonymous names of *Esyllag* and *Guent*, words implying an open country of downs, abounding with prospects hence its inhabitants were denominated *Gwyr Esyllwg*, *Gwyr Esyllyr*, &c. and from their derivatives, SYLLYRWYS.\* Their language, called the *Guenhwyscg*, was one of the three principal dialects of Wales; and several valuable manuscripts written in it are yet preserved.†

The Silures were a brave and hardy people, and, in conjunction with the *Ordovices*, or inhabitants of North Wales, retarded, for a considerable period, the progress of the Roman arms. The grand object of all the operations of Ostorius Scapula, who commanded under the Emperor Claudius, appears to have been the conquest of these nations; which had chosen the gallant CARACTACUS as their Chieftain, and resolutely exhausted every effort in defence of the independence of their country.

On the arrival of Ostorius, the Roman army appears to have occupied the chain of forts which Aulus Plautius, his predecessor, had constructed in the vicinity of the Severn, and the Avon, and previous to this period, the country of the Silures and Ordovices had suffered no diminution from the Roman arms “ the frontier of the one, now the county of *Hereford*, met the frontier of the other, *Shropshire*, on the border of the present county of *Worcester*—

VOL. VI. JUNE, 1805.

C c

ter;

\* Cambrian Register, Vol. I. p. 8.

† Ibid.



ter, and there presented the nearest, if not the only, point of attack, from which Ostorius could make an impression on both nations, or take advantage of circumstances to act against either. This geographical statement has led to a conjecture, that a line of entrenchments, extending on the banks of the river Teme, from the vicinity of Worcester to the scene of the subsequent battle, was occupied by Caractacus and Ostorius; the former retreating as the latter advanced, and thus drawing on the Romans to a place advantageously formed for defence, and as much as possible detached from any assistance which might be afforded to them in case of their defeat, or any other emergency.

“ This line is supposed to have began on Malvern Hills, where British and Roman entrenchments are still to be seen. The two next, the one Roman, the other British, occurred at Whitbourn \* they were situated on the opposite sides of a valley, as if opposed to each other; but the traces of both are now almost obliterated. The fourth is at Thornbury, a British post of great strength between Bromyard and Leominster. The fifth at Croft, another very strong British camp, between Leominster and Wigmore. The sixth is a large Roman entrenchment, called Braudon and the seventh, which is British, is on *Coxwall-Knoll*, near Brampton-Bryan. Near Downton, also, on the east of Leintwardine, is a small entrenchment, which was apparently thrown up to guard the passage of the Teme at that place, and was properly connected with the operations supposed to have taken place on the line above mentioned.

“ Recurring to the proceedings of the Britons, we learn from Tacitus, that, in addition to their natural valor, they were now animated by confidence in a leader, whom neither prosperity could unguard, nor adversity deject, and whose fame had far surpassed that of all his cotemporaries. Inferior in numbers, but trusting to his own military skill, and knowledge of the country, Caractacus determined that the territories of the Ordovices should be the scene of his defence, and the spot which he finally chose for the struggle,

\* Harleian MSS. by Silas Taylor.

struggle, is described by the historian, as in all respects discouraging to his enemies, and favorable to himself. Where Nature had not rendered the eminence inaccessible, he piled large stones on each other, in the form of a rampart—a stream of irregular depth flowed in his front, and a strong body of troops was stationed on the outside of his works in battle array. The leaders of the various tribes prepared them for the contest, by exciting their hopes, by inflaming their resentments, and by urging every motive that could animate their valor. Caractacus himself, darting through the ranks, exclaimed, ‘Remember, Britons, this day is to decide whether we shall be slaves, or free!’ Recollect and imitate the achievements of our ancestors, whose valor expelled Julius Cæsar from our coasts, rescued their country from paying tribute to foreigners, and saved their wives and their daughters from infamy and violation!’ Inflamed by this address, every one shouted applause, and bound themselves, by their peculiar oaths, to conquer or perish.

“Ostorius was staggered by the resolute appearance, and formidable position, of his adversaries, but his troops eagerly demanded battle, and exclaimed, that Roman valor could surmount every obstacle. Observing, therefore, what points were most proper for the attack, he led on his army, and forded the river without difficulty: but, before they could reach the rampart of stone, the Romans suffered severely from the darts of the Britons, and success long appeared doubtful. At length, forming the *testudo*, or shell, by locking their shields together over their heads, they reached the wall, and making several breaches in it, brought on a close engagement. Unprovided with helmets, or breast-plates, the Britons could not withstand the attack, but fell back towards the summit of the hill—a few desperate efforts from this point could not avail them, and victory declared for the Romans. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken on the field of battle, and his brothers surrendered themselves prisoners—he himself escaped into the country of the Brigantes, and claimed the protection of their Queen, Cartismandua; but dreading the resentment of the

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Romans, which had been recently directed against her territories, she was induced to deliver him bound to Ostorius ”\*

The spot on which this important battle was fought, has been greatly contested by antiquaries and historians. Camden places it on the high eminence called *Caer-Caradoc*, in Shropshire, about three miles north from the Teme, and at no great distance from the junction of the Jay and the Coln with that river. This has evidently been a British post, and might probably have been occupied by Caractacus at some period or other, together with the two others which bear the same name; the one near Church-Stretton, in Shropshire, and the second in the parish of Sellack, in this county; but the real scene of his defeat appears to have been *Coxwall-Knoll*, as originally suggested by General Roy in his military Antiquities. Mr. Duncumb adopts the same idea, and observes, that the situation, and other circumstances of this eminence, strikingly correspond with the account given by the Roman Historian.

Coxwall-Knoll, continues Mr. Duncumb, “ is situated in a beautiful valley, near Brampton-Bryan it is luxuriantly covered with wood. one part of it, that towards the south, is within the limits of Herefordshire, whilst that towards the north is within those of Shropshire. On the top is a very strong entrenchment, of British construction, and of much greater extent than that at *Caer-Caradoc*. The access is difficult on all sides. on the south ‘ an artificial terrace is cut along the brow of the hill,’† in front of the entrenchment, and the river Teme flows below in the same direction. The Teme continually varies in its depth and impetuosity, according to the proportion of rain received into its channel from the adjacent hills. Immediately opposite, and at the distance of one mile, with the river between them, is the Roman post of Brandon, ‘ a single square work, with four posts,’‡ more strong towards Coxwall than in any other part. . . . . “ In

\* Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford, by John Duncumb, A M. Vol I. p. 9—12.

† Roy’s Military Antiquities.

‡ Gibson’s Additions to Camden.

“ In the supposed line of march by Caractacus and Ostorius, the latter would occupy Brandon, when the former had retreated to Coxwall. Thus situated, the formidable situation of the Britons, and the obstacles to be encountered in attacking them, were all within view of the Romans they demanded, and were led to the combat fording the river, they reached the rampart, which probably stood on the artificial terrace described by General Roy, and finally defeated the Britons in the entrenchments above. To these conjectures, which are offered with the utmost deference, it may be opposed, that the Teme near Coxwall is but an inconsiderable river, having a smooth and gravelly bottom, and so little water, except when flooded from the hills, that troops may march across it in line for two or three miles together. To this it is replied, that all rivers suffer some decrease, in proportion as the country through which they pass becomes more cultivated, that the words of Tacitus, ‘*præfluebat amnis vado incerto*,’ evidently apply to a river subject to frequent variations, that no difficulties were experienced when the fording took place, ‘*amnemque haud difficulter aradit*,’ and that probably the Romans exaggerated the obstacles to increase their own reputation.”\*

The defeat and captivity of Caractacus, produced a temporary suspension of the war, but the determined spirits of the Silures were yet unsubdued, and, after a short interval of preparation, they again took the field, keeping the Romans in perpetual alarm by sudden attacks, whenever circumstances afforded a prospect of success. Their resentment received strength from the unwise declaration of Ostorius, that ‘the very name of the Silures should be extirpated, as that of the Sigambri had been in Gaul,’ and so far was the purpose of this general from being accomplished, that he himself fell a victim to the fatigue and anxiety which the increased success of the Silurian arms had occasioned him.

During the various successive Proprætorships for upwards of twenty years, neither the terrors of coercion, nor the power of clemency, were able to reduce the Silures to Roman bondage, but

at length the military talents of Julius Frontinus aiding the superior discipline of the Roman soldiers, obliged this brave people to relinquish to their enemies the Forest of Dean, and the present counties of Hereford and Monmouth. Retiring into the fastnesses of Wales, the Silures offered no further resistance to Roman domination; and the complete and undisturbed possession of South Britain, was by this success insured to the conquerors, who included Herefordshire in the district named *BRITANNIA SECUNDA*.

Two of the principal stations of the Itinerary of Antoninus, that is, *MAGNA*, now *Kenchester*, and *ARICONIUM*, near Ross, together with the smaller port of *BRAVINIUM*, or *Brandon*, are situated within the limits of this county. The *Watling Street* enters it on the north from Shropshire, near Leintwardine, where it passes the river Teme, and conducts to the Camp of Brandon. Thence continuing in a southern direction, it proceeds by Wigmore, Mortimer's Cross, Street, Stretford, and Portway, to Kenchester. Leaving this station, and incling to the south-west, it crosses the river Wye, near the Wear, and passing Kingston, Dore, and Longtown, enters Monmouthshire, and proceeds to Abergavenny, the *Gobannum* of the Romans. This road is very visible on Four-ways Common, near Madley, and several entrenchments occur in different parts of the line as it crosses the county. A second Roman road, and ultimately joining with the former at Usk, enters Herefordshire on the south-east from Gloucestershire, and appears to have connected the stations of *Glevum*, or Gloucester, *Ariconium*, *Blestium*, or Monmouth, and *Burrium*, or Usk. A third Roman road enters this county from Worcestershire, and passing Frome Hill, Stretton-Grausham, or Grandison, Lugg-bridge, Holmer, and Stretton-Sugwas, extends to Kenchester. A fourth ancient road, called the *Ridge-way*, is met with to the south of the Herefordshire Beacon, extending for several miles towards Eastnor, in a kind of circular direction.

On the decline of the Roman power, the Silures, who had been the last to surrender their independence, were the first to regain it; and uniting with the other Britons, under the successive commands of Uther Pendragon, and Arthur, they once more displayed their bravery in defending the Island from Saxon usurpation. The nu-

meious

merous hordes of these barbarians, however, that were continually landing upon our shores, conjointly with the effects of internal division, rendered resistance unavailing; and the Britons being driven to the mountains of Wales, Herefordshire became incorporated with the Saxon kingdom of Mercia yet this was not effected till the Saxon power in this district had arrived at its greatest height under the renowned Offa. The original line of demarkation, which had been the river Severn, was now violated, and the famous *Dyke* called *Clawdd Offa*, was made by that Prince to secure his conquests, which comprehended nearly the whole of this county, together with considerable portions of Radnorshire, Monmouthshire, and Shropshire. Still further to repress the repeated incursions of the Britons, Offa removed his court to South-town, now Sutton, about three miles north-west from Hereford, where he erected a palace, on an eminence, defended by strong entrenchments. About the end of the eighth century, the Danes obtained a temporary possession of Mercia, but were expelled by Buthred, the lawful heir, who, after a reign of twenty years, was himself defeated by these invaders, and deprived of his kingdom, which was soon afterwards subdued by Alured, King of the West Saxons, who annexed it to his own. Egbert, his successor, was the politic chieftain that united the various Saxon states into one Sovereignty, and thus laid the foundation of the glory and pre eminence of Britain. During the wars which occurred between the time of the reign of this Prince, and the complete subjugation of Wales, Herefordshire suffered greatly from the different incursions that were made, at various periods, by the brave descendants of the ancient Britons.

This county is bounded on the north by Shropshire, on the north-east, and east, by Worcestershire, on the south-east, by Gloucestershire, on the south west, by Monmouthshire, on the west, by Brecknockshire, and on the north-west, by Radnorshire. Its form is nearly an ellipsis, but some detached parishes are situated beyond the general outline of these, Farlow is surrounded by Shropshire, Rochford is included in the county of Worcester; and Lytton Hill, in that of Radnor. a considerable tract of land, called the Futhog, with a few acres on the Devaudin Hill, is insu-



lated by Monmouthshire. Its greatest extent, from Ludford on the north, to the opposite border, near Monmouth on the south, is thirty-eight miles. its greatest width, fram Clifford on the west, to Cradley on the east, is thirty-five miles. It includes about 800,000 acres, and is divided into eleven hundreds, containing 221 parishes, one city, and six market-towns. the number of houses, as enumerated under the act of 1801, was 19,763, that of inhabitants, 89,191 its boundaries are mostly artificial.

The general aspect of Herefordshire is extremely beautiful. its surface is finely diversified, and broken by swelling heights, so as greatly to resemble the more central parts of Kent. From many of these elevations, the prospects are extremely fine; but are peculiarly so from the Malvern Hills on the east, and the Hatterell, or Black Mountains, on the west. The fertility of the soil is very great, and the county is clothed in almost perpetual verdure. On every side a luxuriance of vegetation is exhibited in widely-extended corn-fields, teeming orchards, expansive meadows, and flourishing plantations. The courses of the rivers and brooks may be traced from any of the adjacent eminences, by the rich lines of wood which skirt their margins much valuable timber is also scattered over the county in hedge-rows, as well as on the sides and summits of the knolls, and higher elevations. Every part seems uniformly productive, except, perhaps, on the northern and western outskirts.

The general character of the soil is a mixture of marle and clay, containing a large proportion of calcareous earth. The substrata is mostly *Lime-stone*, of different qualities; in some parts, particularly near Snodhill Castle, assuming the properties of *Marble*, and becoming beautifully variegated with red and white veins. Towards the western borders, the soil is cold, and retentive of moisture; but still argillaceous, with a base of soft crumbling stone, which decomposes on exposure to the atmosphere; or of nodules of impure lime-stone. The eastern side of the county is principally a stiff clay, of great tenacity and strength, and in many places of a red color. a great proportion of the hundred of Wormelow, on the south, is a light *Sand*. Deep beds of *Gravel* are occasionally met

met with in the vicinity of Hereford; and the sub-soil of several of the hills are of siliceous grit. *Fuller's Earth* is sometimes dug near Stoke; and red and yellow *Ochres*, with *Tobacco pipe Clay*, are found in small quantities in different parts of the county. *Iron Ore* has been met with in the parts bordering on Gloucestershire, but none has been dug of late years; though, from the considerable quantities that have been discovered imperfectly smelted, and from the remains of hand-blomaries that have also been found, it has been thought that some iron-works were established here as early as the Roman times.

Herefordshire is particularly famous as a CYDER country; yet this, though a favorite object of its husbandry, is by no means the only one: cattle, sheep, swine, corn, hops, &c have equally strong claims on the attention of the farmer. Plantations of fruit-trees are found in every aspect, and "on soil of every quality, and under every culture. The most approved site is that which is open to the south-east, and sheltered in other points, but particularly in the opposite direction, for though Virgil, and the other Roman poets, celebrated the west wind as the most genial in Italy, and Philips, in his Poem on Cyder, recommended the same aspect;

———The west, whose gentle warmth  
Discloses well the earth's all teeming womb,  
Invigorating tender seeds, whose breath  
Nurtures the orange and the citron groves,  
Hesperian fruits, and wafts their odours sweet  
Wide thro' the air, and distant shores perfumes,

it is an unquestionable fact, that the westerly winds, and therefore a westerly exposure, are particularly unfavourable to the fruit-trees of Herefordshire. they are more cold, as blowing over a considerable tract of the Welsh mountains, which are often covered with snow even late in the Spring, and they are more unkind, because from that point proceeds a much more than equal proportion of those fogs, and blue mists, which Dr. Beale calls "the disgusts of the Black Mountain."\*

The

The period at which the cultivation of ORCHARDS became a pre-eminent branch of the rural economy of England, appears to have been early in the reign of Henry the Eighth, when the example of a person named Harris, the King's fruiterer, who had occasioned the fields and environs of about thirty towns and villages in Kent, to be planted with fruit-trees, extended this species of culture to several parts of the kingdom.\* The particular era, however, when the plantations of Herefordshire acquired the peculiar eminence which they yet retain, was the reign of Charles the First, when, by the spirited exertions of Lord Scudamore, of Holm-Lacy, and other gentlemen of the county, Herefordshire became, 'in a manner, one entire orchard.†

An *Orchard* is generally raised with most success, and at least expence, in a hop-yard, the ground under this description of culture being always well tilled and manured, as well as fenced against every kind of cattle. The rows should extend from north to south, as in that direction each part of every tree will receive the most equal portions of light and heat. the distance between each row, as well as the space between each tree, must depend on the situation and soil. When the situation is high and exposed, the trees should be closely planted, to afford each other protection, and when the latter is poor and shallow, their growth will, of course, be less luxuriant, and they will consequently require less room: but in low and sheltered situations, and in deep and rich soils, wider intervals should be allowed. In the former instances, twelve yards between each row, and six between each tree, are sufficient: in the latter, twenty-four yards between each row, and eight between each tree, will not be too much. Pruning is not in general use, the most approved method is, that of rendering thin, and pervious to the light, the points of the external branches, so that the internal parts of the tree may not be wholly shaded by the external parts large branches should rarely or never be amputated. As the richness and flavour of the fruit depends greatly on the heat of the atmosphere it matures in, the piercing winds from the east,  
and

\* Evelyn's Pomona, fol. 1679.

† Ibid.

and other ungenial quarters, should be broken off by high screens of wood, and every method employed to preserve the kindling warmth imparted by the rays of the sun.

“ The soil best adapted to most kinds of apples, is a deep and rich loam, when under the culture of the plough, on this the trees grow with the greatest luxuriance, and produce the richest fruit. Some trees, however, the stire and golden pippin in particular, form exceptions to this general rule, and flourish most in a hot and shallow soil, upon a lime or sand-stone. The best sorts of pear trees also prefer the rich loam; but inferior kinds will even flourish where the soil will scarcely produce herbage.

“ The *Apple Trees* are divided into *Old* and *New* sorts; each class comprises some called *Kernel fruits*, that is, the fruit growing on its own native roots, as a distinction from those produced by the operation of grafting. The old sorts are the more valuable, and are those which have been long introduced, as the Stire, Golden-pippin, Hagloe Crab, several varieties of the Harvey, the Brandy-apple, Redstreak, Woodcock, Moyle, Gennet-moyle, Red, White, and Yellow Musks, Pauson, Foxwhelp, loan and old Pearmans, Dymock-red, Ten-commandments, &c. Some of these names are descriptive of the fruit, and others are derived from the places where they have been found in abundance. The modern varieties derive their appellations from such capricious and various causes that a correct list cannot be composed in some instances, the same fruit bears a different name even in the same parish.\* In selecting  
fruits

\* The principal of these APPLES are thus described by Mr Marshall, in his *Observations on the Management of Orchards and Fruit Liquor in Herefordshire*, annexed to his second volume of the *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire*

“ The *Stire* stands first in estimation. The fruit of this variety is somewhat below the middle size, the form rather flat, the colour, a pale yellowish white, with sometimes a faint blush on one side, the flesh tolerably firm; the flavour, when fully ripe, fine. The cyder that is produced from it, in a soil that is adapted to it, is rich, highly flavoured, and of a good body, its price frequently four-fold that of common sale cyder.

The

fruits for cultivation, respect should be paid both to the soil and situation of the intended orchard: where both are favorable, no restraint is necessary; but in cold situations, and unkind soils, the most early fruits are obviously those which may be expected to acquire maturity. "The

The thin lime-stone soils on the margin of the Forest of Dean, are said to produce the richest *stire cyder*. The tree which bears this apple is of a singular growth; remarkably 'befom-headed,' throwing out numerous straight, luxuriant upward shoots, from the crown, taking the form of a willow pollard; running much to wood; and in deep soils, growing to a great size before it becomes fruitful.

"The *Hagloe Crab* is at present next in esteem. This variety is traceable to the original seedling: it was produced about seventy years ago, in a nursery, among other stocks raised from the seed, by Mr. Belamy, of Hagloe, in Gloucestershire, grandfather to the present Mr. Belamy, near Ross, in Herefordshire, who draws from trees grafted with scions from this parent stock, a liquor, which, for richness, flavour, and price, on the spot, exceeds, perhaps, every other fruit liquor which Nature and art have produced. He has been offered sixty guineas for a hog-head, about 110 gallons, of this liquor, and this, without freight, duty, or even a mile of carriage, to enhance its original price. This fruit, while growing, is nearly white; when fully ripe, it has a yellowish cast; sometimes freckled with red on one side, like the common white crab. The size, about that of the *stire apple*, but the form more oblong. The flesh, remarkably soft and woolly, yet not dry, being furnished with a sheer, but, when fully ripe, sweet juice, which, however, is much smaller, in proportion to the quantity of fibrous matter, than that of most other apples. The flavour, when ripe, resembles that of the *Cashew apple* of the West Indies; and what is remarkable, the texture of the flesh is not unsimilar to the pulp of that fruit. The *Cyder*, notwithstanding the sheerness of the juice, is, when properly manufactured, singularly rich, and, notwithstanding the faint smell of the apple, is highly flavoured; and, what is equally remarkable, the liquor is of the highest color, notwithstanding the paleness of the fruit.

"The *Golden Pippen* is in high estimation as a cyder apple, and may rank as the third of this district. It is more generally known than the Hagloe crab; and at public market, its liquor, I believe, is generally next in price to that of the *stire apple*.

"The

"The colors of good cyder-fruits are red and yellow: the color to be avoided is green, as affording liquor of the harshest, and generally of the poorest quality; the pulp should be yellow, and the taste astringent. Apples of a small size, *ceteris paribus*, are always to be preferred to those of a larger, in order that the rind and kernel, in which principally consists the strength and flavour of the liquor, may bear the greatest proportion to the pulp, which affords the weakest and most watery juice."\*

The apple and pear trees which form the orchards of Herefordshire, can only be considered as the productions of art; the one being a variety of the *pyrus malus*, or crab; and the other derived from the *pyrus communis*, or common wild pear: as such, neither of them are noticed by Linnæus. The native wild crab is subject to considerable diversity in the appearance of its leaves, and in the color, shape and flavor of its fruit: by selecting and cultivating the fairest and the best of these, all our valuable varieties have been produced, and by repeated propagation, have been preserved for a time:

"The *Old Redstreak* is yet in being; a few old trees are still remaining. The fruit small, roundish, of a pale yellow ground, with numerous faint red streaks; the flesh firm, full of juice, and, when ripe, finely flavoured; a palatable eating apple. Little, if any, genuine redstreak cyder is now made: it never was, I believe, equal to that of either of the preceding apples. The tree of this apple is of singularly awkward growth, crooked, reclining, ragged, and unsightly.

"The *Woodcock* is another favorite old cyder fruit, but is now going off: many old trees, however, are still left in the country. The fruit is much larger than any of the preceding sorts; above the middle size; the form somewhat oblong, with a long stalk, set on in a peculiar manner, feigned to resemble the woodcock's beak; hence the name. Its color is that of the redstreak, with the addition of some dark blood-red streaks on one side. The flesh remarkably fine; equally fit for culinary purposes and for cyder. The tree large, and strongly featured, forming large boughs, in the pear-tree manner.

"The *Pauson* is a middle-sized green apple. The *Dymock-red*, middle-sized, red color. The *Foxwhelp* is a large red apple. All of them are in good estimation for cyder."

a time : \* several of these artificial varieties have been brought from Normandy, and other parts of the Continent. †

In the management of the fruit, and subsequent *Manufacture of Cyder*, considerable variations occur, accordingly as the makers are more or less skilful. Independently of the qualities of the apple, the superior flavour, and richness of the liquor, greatly depends on the judicious nature of the operations. The juice of the pulp alone is inadequate to make a good and generous cyder; the qualities

- It results from this statement, to use the words of Mr. Marshall, "that the business of the Improvers of Fruit, is to catch at SUPERIOR ACCIDENTAL VARIETIES; and having raised them by CULTIVATION, to the highest degree of perfection they are capable of, to preserve them in that state by ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION.

"The law of Nature, however," continues this gentleman, "though it suffers man to improve the fruits which are given us, appears to have set bounds to his art, and to have numbered the years of *his* creation. Artificial propagation cannot preserve the varieties in perpetuity: a time arrives, when they can be no longer propagated with success. All the old fruits which raised the fame of the liquors of this county are now lost, or are so far on the decline, as to be deemed irrecoverable. The *Redstreak* is given up; the celebrated *Stire Apple* is going off: and the *Squash Pear*, which has probably furnished this country with more *Champagne* than was ever imported into it, can no longer be got to flourish: the stocks canker, and are unproductive.

"The DURATION OF VARIETIES may, however, depend much upon management: for, although Nature wills, that the same wood, or the same set of sap vessels, (for the wood, which is produced by grafting, is, in reality, no more than a protrusion of the graft, an *extension of the original stock*,) shall, in time, lose its secunity; yet it is probable that the same art which establishes a variety, may shorten or prolong its duration. Much may depend upon the stock employed in grafting, and much upon the age of the tree, and the age of the wood, from which the GRAFT is taken: or, perhaps, the CANKER, which seems to be the natural destroyer of varieties, may be checked." *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire, &c. Vol. II. p. 212, 213.*

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lities of the kernel are wanting, to add flavour; and those of the rind, to give color; and hence it is necessary, that the juices of both these should be perfectly expressed. The apples should also be properly separated when gathered: the time for gathering them is generally about the middle of October; but varies according to the season, and sort of the fruit. The prevailing practice of this county, in *gathering*, is to beat the trees with long, slender poles, called *polting lugs*; and, as the apples fall, women and children are employed to collect them into baskets. This mode of gathering is defective; inasmuch as both ripe and unripe fruits are intermixed,

The decay of the oldest and most valuable fruits in Herefordshire, which is here spoken of, is supposed, by Mr. Duncumb, to have been occasioned by the inattention generated by the calamities of the reign of Charles the Second, which suspended the operations of industry, and so weaned the mind from its accustomed pursuits, that it could not readily return to them, and always with unwillingness. The public spirit of the present age has, however, not been indifferent on this occasion; and within the last twenty years, more attention has been paid to the renovation of the old varieties, or to the introduction of others equally good, than was bestowed on the same objects during a century preceding.

“ Grafting, as being most expeditious, has been most frequently attempted; but it is presumed, that no mode of grafting, hitherto practised, has been found adequate to the purpose: the shoots being unavoidably taken from old trees, flourish a few years from the vigor of the crab-stock, then canker, and relapse into all the infirmities of the parent tree. On this principle, the renovation of the old fruits appears impracticable. The opinion of the best informed planters is, that the seeds of the old fruits should be sown, and the most strong and healthy plants selected for cultivation, and a supply of grafts. This experiment has been adopted on a large scale by several planters, and has hitherto promised the fullest success; and has further the sanction of that period (the time of James the First, and beginning of the reign of his successor) in which *orcharding*, if the expression be allowable, received particular attention. The method is now becoming more and more general; and the most experienced planters consider it as the best, if not the only, expedient, to preserve our provincial celebrity.” *Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 190—192.*



mixed, and this mixture is detrimental to the production of cyder, which requires all the fruit to be of a due degree of ripeness. In some orchards, therefore, two gatherings are made: the first, when the apples begin spontaneously to fall, which is a sure criterion of ripeness; and again, when those that were left green on the boughs become sufficiently matured. In the former, and defective mode of gathering, the whole of the fruit collected, is laid together in large heaps, exposed to the weather, in order to correct the crudity of the unripe fruit: this method, though partly successful, is still injurious; as the richest and finest of the fruit too frequently becomes rotten. The best mode of remedying the evil, would be to separate the fruits by hand; and in some few places, the brown, as well as the black rotten, is carefully picked out, and even the tainted or faulty parts of an apple cut away; the sound parts only being suffered to go to the mill.

The fruits "whose rind or pulp are tinged with green, or red, without a mixture of yellow, should be carefully sorted from such as are yellow, or yellow intermixed with red: the latter kinds are alone capable of making fine cyder. Each kind should be *ground* separately, or mixed with such only as become ripe at the same time; but it is from the former practice, that fine cyders, of different flavours and degrees of strength, are best obtained from the same orchard; the liquors being mixed after they are made. The practice of mixing different varieties of fruit is, however, often found eligible; for it is less difficult to find the requisite quantities of richness, astringency, and flavour, in three varieties of fruit than in one; and hence, cyders composed of the juices of mixed fruits, generally succeed with greater certainty than those made with one kind."

In *grinding*, the fruit should be reduced, as nearly as possible, to a uniform consistence, so that the rind and kernels are scarcely discoverable from the general mass; and the air should be allowed free access during the whole operation. The CYDER MILL consists of a stone wheel, provincially a '*runner*,' somewhat in the shape of a corn-mill stone, running on its edge in a circular stone trough, provincially, '*the chace*.' The size of the runner varies from two feet

feet and a half to four feet and a half in diameter; and from nine inches to twelve in thickness: its weight is from one to two tons. The bottom of the chace is somewhat wider than the runner, that the latter may run freely. Its inner side rises perpendicularly; but the outer side spreads so as to make the top of the trough about six or eight inches wider than the bottom, on purpose to give freedom to the runner, and room to scatter the fruit; to stir it up while grinding, and to take out the ground matter: its depth is nine or ten inches.

The outer rim of the trough is three or four inches wide; and the diameter of the inner circle, which the trough circumscribes, from four and a half to five feet, according to the size of the mill. The entire bed of a middle-sized mill, is about nine, ten or twelve feet in diameter; the whole being composed of two, three or four stones, cramped together as one; and worked, or at least finished, after they are cramped together. The stones are mostly a dark reddish grit, raised in the Forest of Dean: the bed of the mill is formed, and the trough partly hollowed, at the quarry; leaving a few inches at the edge of each stone, uncut out, as a bond to prevent its breaking in carriage. Much depends on the quality of the stone: it ought not to be calcareous, either in whole or in part, as the acid of the liquor would corrode it.

The runner is moved by means of an axle passing through the centre, with a long arm reaching without the bed of the mill, for a horse to draw by; and with a short one passing to an upright swivel, turning upon a pivot in the centre of the stone, and steadied at the top by entering a bearing of the floor above. An iron bolt, with a large head, passes through an eye in the lower part of the swivel, into the end of the inner arm of the axis. Thus the requisite double motion is obtained, and the stone kept perfectly upright, which it ought to be, with great simplicity, and without stress on any part of the machine.

On the inner arm of the axis, about a foot from the runner, is generally fixed a cogged wheel, working in a circle of cogs, fixed upon the bed of the mill. The use of these wheels is to prevent the runner from sliding, to which it is liable, when the mill is full; the

fruit, when nearly ground, rising up in a body before the stone: besides, by assisting the rotatory motion of the stone, it renders the work more easy to the horse. The mill is so situated, as to leave a horse path, about three feet wide, between the bed and the walls of the mill-house; so that a moderate sized mill, with its horse-path, takes up a space of fourteen or fifteen feet every way.\*

This kind of cyder-mill is almost peculiar to Herefordshire, though the best in use: it is, however, still imperfect; as the acting parts of the machine, or those which ought to bruise the rind, and crush the kernels, viz. the face of the roller, and the bottom of the trough, are scarcely ever sufficiently adjusted to each other to effect these purposes with any degree of certainty. "Instead of being worked over, and fitted nicely to each other, with the square and chisel, they are hewn over with the stone-mason's pick only; leaving holes, and protuberances, which would save even horse-beans from the pressure, much more the kernels of fruit, which are hard, slippery, and exceedingly difficult to fix, escaping pressure in a peculiar manner, and with singular alertness."†

The best method of grinding the fruit, is to scatter it gradually into the trough. A mill of the general dimensions, is equal to the complete grinding of a hogshead, or a hogshead and a half, in one day. The horse is driven by a woman, or more frequently by a girl, who stirs up the fruit as it is ground; and this latter operation is, or should be, continued till the entire substance of the fruit is reduced to a uniform pap, or mucilage. The quantity of apples sufficient to fill the provincial hogshead of 110 gallons, varies from twenty-four to thirty bushels.

In the management of the reduced fruit, or *Must*, as the *Pomage* is here termed, the common practice is to press it immediately from the mill; but more expert managers suffer it to remain about twenty-four hours before it is taken to the *Press*; "the principle of which is the same as that of the packing-press, or napkin-press, a screw working with a square frame. The sizes of the presses are various:

\* Marshall's Rural Economy of Gloucestershire, Vol. II. p. 274—278.

† Ibid.

various: the bed, or bottom, is about five feet square, of strong plank, or of stone, placed on sleepers about a foot from the ground-floor; or raised on mason-work, about two or three feet high. On each side rises a strong upward cheek, provincially a '*sister*;' and across the top, or upper surface, which is level with the chamber-floor, lies a nut of dimensions suitable to the size of the screw, which is usually about ten inches in diameter. The foot of the screw is square, with cross holes for inserting a lever; or has otherwise a wheel fixed round it for the same purpose. A sinker, provincially the '*bridge*,' is hung beneath it, and is steadied by the cheeks, in the usual manner. The bed, or floor, of the press, which was formerly covered with lead, but is now composed entirely of wood or stone, has a channel cut a few inches within its outer edges, to catch the liquor as it is expressed, and convey it to a lip, formed by a projection on that side of the bed opposite to the mill, under which lip, a stone trough, or wooden vessel, is sunk within the ground, when the bed is fixed low, to receive the liquor.

"The press is worked with levers of different lengths: first, a short one; next, one of a moderate size, by hand: and lastly, with a strong bar, eight or nine feet long, by means of a species of capstan, provincially a '*windlass*;' this is an upright post, about six inches in diameter, with a pike, or pivot, at either end; one of them being in the ground-floor, the other in a bearing of the chamber. From the upper part of this post passes a very strong rope, with an eye at the end, to receive the end of the bar, which has a cross-pin, or shoulder, to prevent the rope from slipping. in the lower part of the post, about three feet from the ground, is one or more holes, for a lever, or levers. By these means an excessive purchase is obtained."

In *pressing*, the pomage is piled up in layers from the bottom of the press, between hair cloths of a loose texture, the dimensions of every layer being lessened as the pile rises, which, when finished, appears like the lower frustum of a pyramid, being somewhat

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considerably

considerably wider at the bottom than at the top. "The pressing is done leisurely, that the liquor may draw off the clearer, and to give the assistant time to keep the reservoir free. the first runnings come off foul and muddy; but the last, especially of perry, will be clear, and as fine as if filtered through paper. a sweet palatable beverage. The residuum may be reduced to almost any degree of dryness, by increasing the number of hands employed in working the press. The first residue is commonly thrown aside as offal, or returned designedly *under-pressed*, to the mill, to be '*washed*,' or, in other words, to be re-ground for family drink. the residue of three hogsheads of cyder yields about one hogshead of this secondary liquor. Philips, in his admirable Poem on Cyder, describes this practice in the following words :

Some, when the press, by utmost vigor screw'd,  
Has drain'd the pulpous mass, regale their swine  
With the dry refuse, thou, more wise, shalt steep  
Thy husks in water, and again employ  
The pond'rous engine. Water will imbibe  
The small remains of spirit, and acquire  
A vinous flavor. this the peasants blithe  
Will quaff, and whistle, as their tinkling team  
They drive, and sing of Fusca's radiant eyes,  
Pleas'd with the medley draught.—

Those, however, who excel in the art of cyder-making, continue to express the juice as long as a single drop can be forced from the pomage; and afterwards re-grind it with some of the first runnings of the liquor, so as to have as much of the juice of the rinds and kernels as can possibly be obtained.

In the prevailing practice of Herefordshire, the liquor is '*tunned*,' or, in other words, conveyed into hogsheads, or larger casks, immediately from the press. The casks are generally filled to the bung-hole; but the more judicious managers leave about a '*paulful ullage*,' more or less, in proportion to the ripeness of the fruit. The period of the commencement of the *fermentation* is uncertain, as no preparation, or *ferment*, whatever, is made in the common routine of practice to bring it on: it therefore wholly depends on the quality of the liquor, and the state of the atmosphere.

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The continuance of the *vinous*, or, more accurately speaking, of the first stage of fermentation to which the liquor is subject, is not less uncertain than its commencement, but is generally completed in a few days; though, if the liquor has been previously agitated in any considerable degree, it will frequently pass through it on the same day. By this operation, some of the impurities with which the liquor, in its raw state, is charged, are thrown up on the surface; but most of them sink to the bottom. The bright and clear liquor is then drawn off by a process termed *racking* · the proper juncture of doing this is contested; but the prevailing idea seems to assign it to the critical time between the subsiding of the foulness, caused by the fermentation in the body of the liquor, and the sinking of the impurities that have been thrown up to the surface, and which not unfrequently takes place almost immediately after the fermentation ceases. The manufacturers of *sweet cyder* use expedients to check, or prevent, the vinous fermentation altogether.

“The *method of racking*, is to draw off the clearer liquor at a tap fixed above the lees, and to put it immediately into a fresh cask, duly seasoned. When it begins to run foul, the tap is stopped, and the remainder is filtered through flannel or canvass bags; or, for want of these, through a hair-cloth, the four corners being hung upon a hook. The filtered liquor, which ought to drop fine from the bag, is added to the rest, from which it differs in three notable qualities · it is higher coloured than that which has not been mixed with the lees; it is no longer prone to fermentation; but, on the contrary, is found to check that of the liquor thrown off, and if it afterwards looses its brightness, it is difficult to be recovered. The casks are not filled up, but left with about a pailful *ullage*, so that the surface of the liquor can just be touched with the finger.”\* The casks are then suffered to remain in the open air till about the end of March, when they are completely filled; and the bungs, which have hitherto been only lightly placed in their situations, are tightly fixed.

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Once

\* Marshall's Gloucestershire, Vol. II. p. 322.

Once racking is not always sufficient to the production of good cyder; though, in the general method of practice, it is seldom racked oftener. Indeed, the necessity of its being a second time drawn off into fresh casks, wholly depends on the state of the liquor, which, if it begins a second time to ferment in a strong or violent degree, is again drawn off; but if the subsequent fermentation, or '*fretting*,' as it is locally termed, is moderate only, it is still suffered to remain in the same cask. Where the ordinary rackings are insufficient to make the liquor 'lie quiet,' and which is sometimes the case when the first fermentation has been improperly checked, an expedient, called '*Stumming the Casks*,' is resorted to: this consists in fumigating the casks with sulphur, the fumes of which have the property of checking the fretting of the liquor that may be afterwards poured in.\* Under one or two modes of management, the liquor is suffered to ferment in open vessels, as large tubs, or broad shallow vats.

Cyders manufactured from good fruit, will retain a considerable proportion of their sweetness at the end of three or four years; but it is then gradually dissipated. The best time for '*bottling cyder*,' is when it is from eighteen months to two years old; or more properly, when it has acquired its highest brightness and flavour in the cask, whether that happens in a longer or a shorter time. When bottled in this state, it may be kept to almost any age,

\* The method of stumming is as follows: "Matches, made of thick linen cloth, about ten inches long, and an inch broad, thickly coated with brimstone about eight inches of their length, being prepared, and the cask properly seasoned; every vent is tightly stopped, except the bung-hole, a match kindled, lowered down into the cask, and held, by the end undipped, until it be well lighted, and the bung be driven in, thus suspending the lighted match within the cask. Having burnt so long as the sustained air will supply the fire, the match dies, the bung is raised, the remnant of the match drawn out, and the cask suffered to remain before the liquor be put into it, some two or three hours, more or less, according to the degree of force required. For a few days the liquor retains a sulphurous flavour; which, however, in a short time vanishes, and no ill effect, I understand, is found to follow the operation." *Marshall's Gloucestershire.*

age, if perfectly secured from the air by the tightness of the cork. The best time for bottling is in cool weather, as the liquor is then less likely again to ferment.

In making cyder for the common drink of the farm-house, the flavour is only a secondary object of consideration, the great object being to obtain a large quantity at a small expence. "In this case, the apples are usually ground as soon as they become moderately ripe; and the juice is either racked off at once, as soon as it becomes tolerably clear, or more frequently conveyed at once from the press to the cellar: a violent fermentation then commences, and continues till nearly the whole of the saccharine part is decomposed the casks are filled up, and stopped early in the ensuing spring, sometimes sooner, and no further attention is given: the liquor thus managed, is generally harsh and rough."\*

The culture of the *Pear-Tree*, and the management of *Perry*, differ so little from those of the apple-tree and its produce, that the same general rules are applicable to both. The pear-tree is, however, most successfully propagated on stocks of its own species, and lives much longer than the apple. Like the latter, it grows with the greatest luxuriance in strong and deep soils, and in these the finest liquor is produced from it; but it will flourish in every soil where it is not incommoded with water; and might, probably, be cultivated in almost every part of England, with nearly as much success as in this county, and as good perry obtained, if the fruit were ground in a similar mill, and equal attention given during the process of manufacture. In planting pear-trees, a wider interval should be allowed between them than is necessary for the apple-tree: in the most closely planted orchards, the rows should not be less than eighteen yards distant, nor the trees be nearer to each other than eight or nine yards. when the ground is to remain under tillage, it is better to allow even twenty-five or thirty yards between the rows. As in cyder, the fruit which is ground together, should be as uniformly ripe as possible: and few kinds of pears are found to improve by being kept after they have fallen

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through

\* Duncumb's Collection, Vol. I. p. 196.



through ripeness from the trees. Perry will not always become fine so readily as cyder. when it does not, an ounce and a half, or two ounces, of dissolved isinglass, are applied in the usual manner, to a cask of 110 gallons. The *Pears* held most in estimation, are the *Squash*, so called from the tenderness of its pulp; the *Old-field*, from having grown as a seedling in a field of that name; the *Huff-cap*, from the quantity of fixed air contained in its liquor; the *Bar-land*, from a field in the parish of Bosbury, called the *Bare-lands*, the *Sack-pear*, from its richness; and the *Rcd-pear*, from its color: of inferior sorts, the *Long-land* is the most valuable.

The principal markets for the fruit liquors of Herefordshire, are London and Bristol, from which ports great quantities are sent to Ireland, to the East and West Indies, and to other foreign markets in bottles. The principal part of the liquors is bought immediately from the press by the country dealers who live within the district, and in general prefer to have it in that state, that the fermentation, and subsequent management, may take place under their own inspection. The price of the common cyder is generally fixed by a meeting of the dealers at Hereford Fair, on the twentieth of October annually, and on the average of years, varies from one pound five shillings to two guineas per hogshead.\* The *stire* cyder is seldom sold from the press, the dealers either buy the fruit, or the growers work their own liquor. its value, even at the press, is from 5l. to 15l. an hogshead.

The annual produce of the fruit greatly varies: in a plentiful year it is almost beyond conception, as the trees are then loaded even to excess, and frequently break under the weight of the apples. at these times, indeed, the branches are generally obliged to be supported on props, or forked poles. This kind of excessive fruitage, however, seldom occurs more than once in four years; the year immediately succeeding, is mostly unproductive, unless the season should be very remarkably fine: what may be named a full fruitage, occurs, perhaps, once in every three years. In some of these years of abundance, twenty hogsheads of cyder have been made from

\* Marshall.

from the produce of a single acre of orchard ground. The orchards are of various sizes; some of them contain from thirty to forty acres: the soil of the orchards is generally kept under tillage. The apple trees suffer great injury from the *mistletoe*, which creeping over the branches, and deriving its whole nourishment from the parent tree, deprives it of its juices, thus producing a premature old age and decay. Under a more judicious management, the ravages of this parasitical plant might be entirely prevented; as it may readily be cleared from the trees by hooks in frosty weather; a practice that is observed by a few individuals.

The Herefordshire *Cattle* are regarded, by the best informed judges, as the most superior breed in this Island. The other breeds which nearly resemble them, are those of Devonshire and Sussex; and of the Vale of Pickering, in Yorkshire. They are of the middle-horned kind; with a large and athletic form; and unusually sleek in appearance, from the bright and silky nature of the coating. The prevailing color is a reddish brown, with white and bald faces. The heifers fat kindly at an early age; and the calves also are much in repute for this quality. The rearing of oxen for agricultural purposes is a very general practice; nearly half the ploughing of the whole county is performed by them; and they are equally employed in the labors of the harvest. In those parts where their exertions are required on hard roads, they are shod with iron. When they have been worked about five or six years, they are generally sold, mostly in good condition, to the graziers of Buckinghamshire, and other adjacent counties, who still further improve them for the consumption of the markets of the metropolis. The general time of selling them is at Hereford Fair, where a thousand or fifteen hundred head of cattle are exposed for sale annually. The *Dairy* produce is principally confined to the making of cheese for home use, excepting in the vicinity of Bromyard, where considerable quantities are made for the Hereford market.

The Herefordshire breed of *Sheep* is almost equally as celebrated as that of its cattle. the name by which they are distinguished is the *Ryeland*, from a district in the southern part of the county, where the most superior varieties are fed. "They are small, white-faced,

faced, and hornless; the ewes weighing from nine to twelve and fourteen pounds the quarter; the wethers, or '*wedders*,' from twelve to sixteen and eighteen pounds. In symmetry of shape, and flavour of their meat, they are superior to most flocks in England; and in the quality of their wool, they are wholly unrivalled. They lamb in February and March; but during winter, and particularly in time of lambing, the store flocks are generally confined by night in a covered building, provincially termed a *cot*; in which they are fed sometimes with hay, or barley-straw, but much more frequently with peas-halm. Some breeders accustom them to the cot only in very severe weather, and in lambing time.\* The manure made from the peas-halm is excellent, and in large quantities; whilst the practice of *cotting* materially contributes to the health of the animal, and to the fineness of its fleece. The quantity shorn from each does not average more than two pounds; but the quality is such as almost rivals that imported from Spain: the price is sometimes as high as thirty-three shillings the stone of 12½lb. untrinded; when coarse wool is only worth ten or twelve shillings. A cross has been made between the Ryeland and new Leicester sorts; to the advantage of the breeder, at least on good land, but to the detriment of the wool. The preservation of the original fineness of this staple commodity, or its improvement, are objects worthy of national attention: a cross between the Ryeland and real Spanish breeds, seems the most probable mode of effecting them, and many spirited breeders are now making the experiment. Leominster has been most usually celebrated as famous for this wool; but possibly it might have been the place of its sale, rather than of its growth; as the rich pastures in that vicinity, and elsewhere, are generally supposed to have the effect of deteriorating the wool. Philips, the poet, writes thus:

— Can the fleece  
Boetic, or finest Tarentine, compare  
With Lemster's silken wool?

Camden

\* This practice was derived from the Flemings, and introduced into England about the year 1660. *Systema Agricult fol. Lond.* 1668.

Camden terms it, 'Lem'ster ore-' and Drayton asks

Where lives the man so dull, on Britain's furthest shore,  
To whom did never sound the name of Lemster ore,  
That with the silkworm's web for smallness doth compare.

Dyer, also, thus notices it in his poem on this subject:

And beauteous Albion (since great Edgar chac'd  
The prowling wolf) with many a lock appears  
Of silky lustre: chief, Siluria, thine:  
Thine, *Vaga*, favored stream, from sheep minute  
On Cambria bred, a pound o'erweighs a fleece.\* †

The cultivation of *Hops*† forms a very considerable branch of the rural economy of Herefordshire, and is still increasing, particularly in the parts bordering on Worcestershire. They appear to have been introduced into this county soon after they were imported into England about the commencement of the sixteenth century; and by the middle of the following century, the cultivators had greatly extended their plantations, and become considerably more numerous. The hops are of two kinds, *White* and *Red*; but each kind has several varieties. the white hops are the most delicate, and have the preference with the buyers; though the red kinds are more hardy, and impart a stronger quality in brewing. The best soils for hops in this county is a rich dry loam, or gravel; the clayey soils being considered as too cold. The best aspect for a plantation, or '*Hop-Yard*,' is the south-east; and particular care is taken to secure it from the west and south-west winds; as the

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 179, 180.

† The *Hop-plant* is recorded to have been introduced into this country in the year 1524; but the little estimation in which it was held for some years afterwards, was so remarkably low, that in 1528, a petition to restrain its use was presented to Parliament; and in that petition it was denominated a "*most pernicious and wicked weed*." Though thus styled at that period, it became a great favorite before the century expired; and in 1603, an act was passed to prevent the hops being adulterated.

the blights, and honey-dews, mostly come from those quarters: should, however, the seasons prove favorable, the aspect seems of little importance. In making a new plantation, meadow or old pasture land is preferred to arable. When the site is fixed on, in the most approved practice, the land is twice ploughed between November and Christmas, and the sward buried at a sufficient depth to cause it to rot. the top-mould being thus exposed to the atmosphere, becomes in some degree pulverized, and is afterwards cross harrowed, and prepared for the reception of the '*sets*,' which consist of cuttings from the old stocks, about the respective lengths of four inches. Care is taken that each cutting shall have two or three *joints*, from one or other of which, a shoot is almost certain. The time of planting is about the beginning of April: in this operation two modes are pursued. In what are called the *plough hop-lands*, the sets are planted in parallel rows, a distance of from six to nine feet being left between each row, according to the nature of the soil; and a space, varying from three to four feet between the sets in the same row. In the hop-yards worked by *hand*, the sets are disposed differently, so that every three of them being connected by an imaginary line, appear to form an equilateral triangle: in this mode every set is about five feet, or five feet and a half, the more usual distance, from each other.

When the sets are planted, a hole, from eight to twelve inches square, is dug, and filled with some of the finest mould, which is beat tightly down with a hammer. in the centre of this, "one set is placed in a perpendicular direction, and round it three or four others are planted, sloping outwards at the bottom, but nearly meeting at the top; so that when the *wires*, or vines, spring up, they may not be too far separated to run up the poles. This done, the sets are covered an inch deep with some firm light mould, which is generally pressed closely round them with the hand."\* Where the method of digging holes is not practised, the sets are planted within the circumference of an impression made in the ground with a round rammer. Near every *set of sets*, a stick,  
about

\* Lodge's Introductory Sketches, &c. p. 57.

about two feet and a half long, is fixed firmly in the ground, so as to form with it an angle of about sixty degrees: round these sticks the wires, or bines, are twisted and tied, as soon as they have attained a sufficient height.

About the beginning of July, the ground is hoed to clear it from weeds, care being taken that the young shoots are not injured by this operation. In a month or six weeks afterwards, it is again hoed; and about Michaelmas, the mould is gathered into small hillocks round each set of shoots, a small cavity, or bason, provincially an '*eye*,' being left in the centre of each hillock. In another month this cavity is filled up with fresh mould, and the hillocks, or '*tumps*,' completed for the first year, during which no hops are produced. The use of the tump is to afford warmth and nourishment to the roots of the plants, and to throw off all superfluous water.

The business of the second, and of every succeeding year, commences about March or April, "by throwing down the hills with the hoe, and making the land even. The shoots are then cut off level with the surface with a sharp knife. The top of each bed of sets is afterwards covered with a small quantity of fine mould, raised into a pyramidal form, in order to point out where the stacks are, in case they should not all spring up at the time of pulling, which is sometimes the case. When the shoots again make their appearance above the ground, the *hop poles* are '*pitched*' in holes made purposely to receive them; and when the bines are about twelve inches high, they are tied to the poles with rushes; but not too tight, the consequence of which would be a stoppage in the circulation of the sap. this business is generally performed by women, and is continually repeated, till the wires are above the reach of a person standing on the ground."\*

Towards the latter end of May, or beginning of June, the ground is again hoed, and small hills, as before, made round the stocks;

\* Clarke's General View of the Agriculture of Herefordshire, p. 56. It is not unworthy of observation, that the hop-bine invariably turns from east to west with the sun, while the bear-bine, and kidney-bean, ascend in a contrary direction.

stocks; a bason or cavity being also left, as at first, in the centre, and afterwards filled up with fresh mould, to strengthen and invigorate the plants. About the middle or end of July the plants blossom, and continue in that state for about three weeks; at the end of which time the *Hop* is formed, and in three weeks more arrives at maturity, when the *picking season* commences. When the hop is sufficiently ripe for this purpose, it assumes a brownish color, and yields a fragrant smell.

In picking hops, the bines are cut about a foot above the tumps, when the poles are pulled up, and carried to the *hop cribs*, across which they are placed. The crib is a frame of wood, about ten or twelve feet long, and four wide, supported by four legs. In the inside is suspended a coarse *hurden* cloth, to receive the hops as they are picked off the poles, which is principally done by women and young girls, many of whom come from Wales for the purpose. As fast as the hops are picked, they are conveyed to the '*kilns*,' six or eight of which are not uncommon numbers for one estate, it being necessary that the hops should be dried quickly, otherwise they ferment, and lose some of their virtues. "The old Herefordshire kilns are built with a flue, or chimney, from eight to twelve feet high, at the top of which is what is commonly called a brick lantern, to distribute the heat in a regular manner to every part of the kiln. Lately, however, the Kentish kilns have been introduced, which open immediately from the fire-place like a very large hopper, by which means their surface can be extended to a dozen feet square, whilst the others are seldom made so large. Instead of a lantern, a large flat stone, called a *sparkling stone*, is placed horizontally about a foot from the top upon some iron bars, for the purpose of preventing the hops immediately over the fire from being scorched."\*

The methods of *drying hops* are guarded with some degree of secrecy: but the best mode appears to be, to spread the hops evenly upon the kiln, and about five inches deep, as a greater thickness prevents the steam from properly escaping, which, if not  
effected,

\* Lodge's Introductory Sketches, p. 46.

affected, the hops are invariably spoilt, by being *coddled*. The fire should be slow and steady; and the hops should be gently turned twice or thrice during the operation. When sufficiently dry, they are taken from the kiln, and the leaves being first separated from the stems, the hops are thrown up into heaps for three or four days to '*sweat*;' and as soon as they begin to '*give*' a little, or feel moist, they are put into bags for the market. The general mode of '*bagging*,' is to fasten the mouth of the hop-bag round a hoop placed in a hole made in an upper-floor; and while the bag is filled by one man above, another descends into the bag, and treads the hops till the bag be full.\* Hop-yards worked by hand, will, if properly manured, flourish during forty or fifty years; but the plough hop-lands are generally worn out in twenty or thirty years. About five hundred weight of hops is estimated as a fair produce from an acre containing 2000 poles. The length of each pole for the common sort of hops, is from fifteen to eighteen feet, but those for the Farnham-white, the Kentish-grape, and the Red-vine, are generally three or four feet longer. As hops pay a considerable duty to the state, they have been placed under the excise; and every bag is obliged to be weighed and marked by a proper officer, before it is exposed for sale, under a large penalty. The varieties in the profits arising from hop-grounds are very great; as the produce is much affected by the fluctuations of the weather.

The principal part of the cultivated lands of Herefordshire are under tillage; but the produce, particularly of *Wheat*, though very considerable, is not correspondent to what ought to be grown on soils of such extreme fertility, and in situations so favourable. This is generally attributed to bad management, especially in the article of manure, which is seldom thrown on the land in sufficient quantities; probably from the difficulty of obtaining it through the great demand. The old routine, from which, however, many judicious farmers are now varying with success, is thus described by Mr. Duncumb.

" A good

\* Lodge's Introductory Sketches, p. 46.



" A good fallow, or a clover ley, well worked, limed, and manured, produces, on an average, about twenty Winchester bushels of wheat per statute acre: in the following spring it is sown with peas, sometimes beans, after one ploughing, and with no manure; the produce is about fourteen bushels per acre: after two ploughings, and a partial dressing, or much more frequently, without any dressing whatever, it is again sown with wheat in October; and if this *brush* crop, as it is termed, produces somewhat more than half the quantity yielded by the fallow, the grower is satisfied. In the following spring it is sown with barley and clover, after two ploughings, but still without manure; and, as might be expected from the exhausted state of the land, it generally affords a very inconsiderable crop. Sheep are turned on the young clover as soon as the barley is removed. Sometimes oats, or turnips, precede the barley on a small part of the land; and a few winter vetches have occasionally been introduced, but still without manure, or any other preparation than one or two ploughings. After mowing one crop of clover, it is fed with cattle in the spring following, and afterwards remains for seed. The fallowing then re-commences, and the same system is repeated. In this manner, one-third of this description of arable land is constantly under the culture of wheat; and that third, during its preparation for the seed, (which is sown almost invariably in the broad-cast manner,) is termed the *odd mark*."\*

The lighter and more sandy lands are managed with greater skill than the clays, and their produce is proportionably increased. In the district about Ross, the land has been much improved by the use of lime as a manure, and now produces great quantities of barley, peas, wheat, &c. Here " the general course of crops is as follows: wheat on a clover lay; turnips, barley, and seeds: after two years begin again; wheat, peas; turnips, barley, and seeds." The heaviest crops of wheat are, generally speaking, produced in the vicinity of Hereford, and thence through the clays towards Ledbury: lands thus situated, are now rented at about eighteen shillings the

the statute acre; but abstracted from the pasture and meadow, the average rent of arable lands is not more than thirteen or fourteen shillings.\*

*Oats* are grown in most abundance towards Wales, and on the eastern borders of the county. *Turnips* are grown under as bad a general system as the wheat: "they are often sown without manure on poor and foul lands, after one or two ploughings; and not half the quantity sown is even once hoed." Artificial *Grasses* are not yet sufficiently attended to; though, both with respect to these and to turnips, some improvements have been made within the last eight or ten years; chiefly through the means of an Agricultural Society established in this county in the year 1797. Some rich and luxuriant *Meadow* lands extend on the banks of the rivers Wye, Lugg, and Frome, and in some other parts. The practice of irrigation is inadequately resorted to, though the numerous rivulets that traverse the county offer uncommon facilities for the purpose. The size of farms is in general extensive; the rental of many of them is from 400*l.* to 500*l.* a year the smaller ones are principally from fifty to one hundred pounds. The construction of many of the farm buildings is rude and unsubstantial. the lower

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part,

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol I p. 175 "The reaping of wheat is generally performed by companies of Welshmen from Cardiganshire, and other parts of South Wales, but it is now gradually becoming a branch of labour amongst our natives: their mode, which is that of *hack-zing* it close to the ground, possesses many advantages: it is more expeditious, and less expensive, as each laborer will reap one statute acre in a day, and that for two shillings, with provisions and liquor. Women and boys are engaged, at the expence of the farmer, to collect, bind, and stack the sheaves. The parties of ancient Britons vary in number, according to the extent of the work they have previously contracted for: to four or five, men there generally belongs one horse, uncumbered with bridle or saddle; on this they ride in succession, taking little rest, and performing their journies with great expedition. One of each party understands enough of the English language and roads, to act as interpreter and guide. They avoid, as much as they can, the society of our natives, are temperate, laborious, and grateful, easily pleased, and easily irritated." *Ibid.*

part, from one to two feet above the surface, being a stone wall, cemented only with mud or clay: on this a timber frame-work is erected, the vacancies in which are filled up by laths interwoven in a basket-like manner, and the whole plastered over and white-washed. The thick flags that are used to cover the roof instead of tiles, increase the weight, without adding to the solidity; and the infirm cement at bottom soon mouldering by the weather, the whole fabric quickly becomes ruinous.\*

Herefordshire may be properly termed a *Woodland* county; many species of trees growing up spontaneously, and becoming strong and vigorous in a very short period. The oak, elm, poplar, and willow, are particularly flourishing; but are seldom suffered to attain full maturity, unless on the estates of the nobility, and most eminent landed proprietors. Coppice-wood is extremely abundant, the sides and summits of many of the hills and upland grounds being covered with extensive plantations. The ash coppices are very valuable and numerous; those of alder are also plentiful in low and marshy situations: the former are regulated under a general system, and are cut about once in eight, ten or twelve years, according to the uses for which the wood is designed. The principal part of the county is inclosed; and as most of the inclosures are bounded by hedge-rows, it has a very sylvan and woody appearance.

The *Roads* of Herefordshire have long been distinguished as proverbially bad. they are such, observes Mr. Marshall, "as one might expect to meet with in the marshes of Holland, or among the mountains of Switzerland." In various parts they are sunk far below the surface of the contiguous grounds, the floods having washed the soil away even to the bare rock; and in other places the steep ascents, and rapid declivities, render them almost impassable, especially in bad weather. They are also so narrow in some situations, that two carriages cannot pass each other without extreme danger; and in others, not at all. Even the chief turnpike roads very strongly partake of the same general character.

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\* Clark's General View, p. 58.

The principal *RIVERS* and *Streams* of this county are the Wye, the Lugg, the Munnow, the Arrow, the Frome, the Team, and the Leddon. The Wye has been often celebrated for the extremely picturesque and diversified scenery which adorns its meandering channel. Rising near the summit of the Plunlimmon Hills, in Montgomeryshire, it flows between the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, and afterwards enters Herefordshire near Clifford, the reputed birth-place of the ill-fated fair Rocamond. Winding to the east above Clifford Castle, it glides beautifully between orchards, meadows, and corn-fields, till it reaches the abrupt and commanding eminence of Mawbech Hill: thence darting suddenly through the bold arches of Bredwardine Bridge, it flows on to Hereford, through a more level, but still extremely pleasant country. From Hereford to Ross, its features occasionally assume greater boldness; though more frequently their aspect is placid; but at the latter town, wholly emerging from its late state of apparent repose, "it resumes the brightness and rapidity of its primitive character, as it forms the admired curve which the Church-yard of Ross commands. The celebrated spire of Ross Church, peeping over a noble row of elms, here fronts the ruined Castle of Wilton, beneath the arches of whose bridge, the Wye flows through a charming succession of meadows, encircling at last the lofty and well-wooded hill crowned with the majestic fragments of Goodrich Castle, and opposed by the waving eminences of the Forest of Dean. The mighty pile, or peninsula, of Symond's Rock succeeds," round which the river flows in a circuit of seven miles; though the opposite points of the isthmus are only one mile asunder. Shortly afterwards, the Wye quits the county, and enters Monmouthshire at the New Wear.

This river is navigable to Hereford in barges of from eighteen to forty tons; but either a large or a small supply of water is equally fatal to the navigation. "The latter is experienced during the greater part of every dry summer, when shoals barely covered with the stream occur very frequently. In winter, heavy rains, or snow dissolving on the river's banks, within the county, have the effect of gradually adding a few inches to the depth; but when

these rush into its channel, from the mountains of Brecknock and Radnorshire, they occasion an almost instantaneous overflow, and give it a force which defies all the ordinary means of resistance and control.\* By this impetuosity, considerable quantities of land are frequently removed from their situations on one side or the other, and new channels are thus formed in various places: to this impetuosity is also to be ascribed the want of a sufficient number of bridges to render the communication safe and easy between different parts of the county. In the whole extent of the Wye through Herefordshire, there was only one bridge (at Hereford) till the year 1597: an act of Parliament was then obtained for erecting a second at Wilton; and since that time two more have been added; the one at Bredwardine, by an act passed in the year 1762, and the other at Witney, by an act passed in 1780. That at Bredwardine, which is built of brick, after sustaining some damage by the great flood of 1795, has continued to resist the impetuosity of the river; but that of Witney has been already twice destroyed, and was again renewed on stone piers in the year 1802.†

The principal fish taken in the Wye, is the salmon, which is found in it at all times, but only in perfection between the months of December and August.‡ They were formerly more abundant than at present; so much so, indeed, that in the indentures of apprenticeship at Hereford, it was a clause, that the apprentice should not be compelled to live on them more frequently than two days in a week. Their passage up the river is now, however, so much obstructed by iron-works, that, unless the water is swelled far above its usual height, they cannot advance: this circumstance, together

\* The greatest flood experienced of late years, was occasioned by a fall of rain, and the melting of snow, on the fifth of February, 1795, when the Wye rose fifteen feet within twenty-four hours, and did enormous damage through the whole county, destroying bridges, drowning cattle and sheep, sweeping off timber, &c.

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 159, 160.

‡ Fuller has asserted, but erroneously, that the Salmon of the Wye are in season all the year long.' *Worthies*, p. 34.

together with the illegal practice of taking them in cribs, have rendered them much less plentiful

The River *Lugg* has its origin in Radnorshire, but enters Herefordshire on the north-west side, near Stapelton Castle: thence flowing in a south-east direction, it receives the *Punsley* near Leominster, and afterwards inclining to the south, is increased by the waters of the *Arrow* and the *Frome*. Soon after its junction with the latter river, it falls into the *Wye* near the pleasant village of Mordisford. The district of country through which this river flows is fine and fertile, but far less abundant in beautiful scenery than the *Wye*, though Drayton has characterised the *Lugg* as 'more lovelie.' Like the *Wye*, however, it is subject to sudden overflows, and is frequently swelled by partial rains, which give it great rapidity and force at its junction with that river. These circumstances have operated to prevent its being rendered navigable, though two acts of Parliament have been passed for that purpose.

The *Munnow* rises on the Herefordshire side of the Hatterell Mountains, and flowing south-eastward, is joined near Longtown by the *Esle* and *Olchron* rivulets, which have their springs also near the sources of the *Munnow*, thence flowing southward through a pleasant and sequestered vale, it is joined near Alteryngnis by the *Hothny*, after which it turns to the north-east towards Pontrilas, and near that place is increased by the united streams of the *Dore* and the *Werme*, which also rise in this county; the former at Dorston, Dore's town, and the latter at Alansmoore. Again turning to the south-east, it forms the boundary between Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, till it quits the county at Llanrothal, and flowing towards Monmouth, is received by the river *Wye* immediately below that town.

The *Tcam*, or *Tcme*, enters this county from the confines of Radnorshire and Shropshire, a short distance north-west from Brampton Bryan, and flowing eastward, runs into Shropshire near Ludlow. thence bending to the south, it again enters Herefordshire; but soon leaves it for Worcestershire, where having made a considerable circuit, it once more flows on the borders of this county, of which it becomes the boundary for a mile or two above

and below Whiteborn; after which it discharges itself into the Severn, between Malvern-chace and Woodbury-Hill, in Worcestershire. In the muscle-shells of this river, *Pearls* have occasionally been found.

The *Leadon*, or *Leddon*, rises above Bosbury, on the east side of the county, and running to the south, gives name to the town of Ledbury; thence flowing into Gloucestershire, it unites with the Severn. The *Arrow* enters Herefordshire from Radnorshire, and flowing to the east, falls into the Lugg below Leominster. The *Frome* rises near WolfreLOW above Bromyard, and taking a south course, is joined by the *Loden*, near Stretton-Grandison; when turning to the south-west, it unites with the Lugg above Mordisford.

The inland navigation of Herefordshire is very imperfect; though scarcely any county, possessing neither iron-works, nor any principal manufacture, can have greater occasion for its aids. The *Hereford and Gloucester Canal*, began under an act passed in 1791, is not yet completed,\* though upwards of 100,000*l.* has already been expended in its formation: so far as it has been finished, its utility has been very considerable. Another *Canal* has been commenced under an act obtained soon after the former, but has not been carried to its projected extent, through a miscalculation of expences. This crosses the upper part of the county, running from Kington to Leominster, and thence towards Stourport, in Worcestershire, where it is intended to unite with the Severn.

Some *Medicinal Springs* have been noticed as rising on the Hereford side of the Malvern Hills, and known among the peasantry by the customary name of *Holy-wells*. Several *Petrifying Springs* are also met with in the neighbourhood of Moccas, Fownhope, Llanrothal, Wormesley, &c. and other hilly parts of the county where the soil is calcareous. Near Richard's Castle, a small spring has obtained the name of *Bone-well*, from the circumstance of its frequently emitting, when disturbed, small bones, resembling vertebræ and other bones of the frog.

Herefordshire returns eight Members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city, two for Leominster, and two for Weobly.

Weobley. Ledbury, Ross, and Bromyard, also, were formerly privileged to send representatives, but were excused by petition on the plea of inability to support them.

### HEREFORD.

THE antiquity of Hereford is remote; but the precise era of its origin has not been ascertained. Camden supposes it to have arisen in the maturity of the Saxon Heptarchy; though he inconsistently, and immediately afterwards, assigns the reign of Edward the Elder as the time of its foundation. It must, however, have been in existence long before, even previous to the year 676,\* or 680,† when Peada, or Peda, King of Mercia, having embraced the Christian religion, a Synod was held here, in which it was decreed, that a new See should be formed in Mercia, and, in consequence, Putta was chosen as the first Bishop of Hereford; the ceremonies of his consecration being performed by Sexulph, Bishop of Lichfield, who was himself styled ‘Bishop of the Mercian People on the west side of the river Severn.’‡ This circumstance clearly evinces, that Hereford must then have been a place of some importance, and the probability is, that it originated soon after the departure of the Romans, when *Magna Castra*, or *Kenchester*, the nearest Roman station, was deserted. The etymology of its name is not sufficiently established to decide this inquiry. Camden observes, that the Britons called the place ‘*Trefawith*, from the beech trees, and *Hên-with*, from the old road, before it got the name of Hereford.’ The Britons, however, according to Mr. Gough,§ did not call it *Hên-with*, but *Hên-jordd*, i. e. the old way; and from these words he supposes the Saxons to have formed its present name, which, in the language of that people, signifies the *ford of the army*.||

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\* Gale’s Ang. Scrip. Vol. III. p. 240.

† Godwin de Præsul, p. 526.

‡ Matt. of West. and Gale, as quoted by Duncumb.

§ Additions to the Britannia, Vol. II. p. 451.

|| Ibid.



Whatever was the origin of Hereford, its having been fixed on as the seat of a Bishop, was certainly the means of preserving and extending its consequence. It became a capital of the Mercian kingdom, and had a magnificent Church, according to Polydore Virgil,\* as early as the reign of Offa, and even before the present Cathedral was founded by that Sovereign, in expiation of the murder of Ethelbert, King of the East Angles. The building of this latter fabric, and the various gifts made by the multitudes that came to visit the tomb of Ethelbert, who was considered as a martyr, and worshipped as a saint, were the causes of Hereford attaining additional importance. Under the West Saxon Kings, its progress was equally flourishing; and in or about the time of Athelstan, the City was inclosed by *Walls*, to secure it on those sides where it was not defended by the Wye.† Here, also, Athelstan made a treaty with the Britons in the year 939, having compelled them to agree to the payment of an annual tribute of twenty pounds

\* ‘*Templum quod Herefordiæ id temporis, magnificum erat,*’ are the words of this historian. “His claim, however, to magnificence,” observes Mr. Duncumb, “must have arisen from a comparison with other buildings of similar construction, and although stone churches of some eminence were not then unusual, that of Hereford seems to have been principally formed of wood, as the above historian terms the church which followed, *lapideu Structura*, apparently as a marked distinction from that which preceded it.” *Collections, Vol. I p 520.*

† “The *Walls*, which now imperfectly remain, although improved and strengthened at various periods, probably stand on the original foundations. They are 1800 yards in extent, and inclose the city on the east, north, and west sides: towards the south, it has the natural defence of the Wye, and also fifty yards of wall from the western angle towards the bridge. the whole of this side is 550 yards. The gates were six in number, viz Wye Bridge Gate, which stood at the south end of the bridge, Friar’s Gate, which was situated on the south-west; Eigne Gate, on the west, Wide-marsh Gate, on the north, Bishop’s Gate, on the north-east, and St. Andrew’s, since called St Owen’s, on the south-east. Fifteen embattled towers projected from the walls, having

pounds in gold, three hundred in silver, and two hundred head of cattle, besides hawks and hounds, in lieu of sixty-six pounds of silver, which they were before bound to pay by the laws of Howel Dda.

About the middle of the eleventh century, the garrison of Hereford successfully opposed the Welsh, who had made an irruption into the Marches; but were more unfortunate three years afterwards, in 1055, when a formidable army entered the county under the command of Gryffyth, a Sovereign of Wales, and Algar, Earl of Chester, who had been disgraced and banished from the court of Edward the Confessor. The English were commanded by Earl Ranulph, or Ralph, the Governor of Hereford, who was induced to quit the city, and give battle to the Welsh, within the distance of two miles, but, after a contest of some length, his forces were defeated, and driven back towards Hereford, and the two armies entering the city together, the whole became a scene of pillage and slaughter. The principal inhabitants fled to the Cathedral for security, but neither the sacredness of the place, nor the supplications of the Bishop, (Leofgar,) availed against the stern descendants of the Britons; the entrance was forced, and a dreadful carnage ensued.

having embrasures in the shape of crosses, in the centre and sides, for observation, and the discharge of arrows. The distances between these towers varied from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five yards: the height of the wall, measuring on the outside, was sixteen feet, that of the towers, thirty-four. Thus the whole circumference of the city, inclosed by the walls and river, was 2350 yards. Speed, in his History, states the wall only to be 1500 paces in extent, and Leland very correctly calls its 'a goodly mile'. The latter writer also observes, that 'these walles and gates be right well maintained by the Burgesses of the town,' and notices also, the additional security derived from 'a little brooke that cometh a five miles by west, and circuith (as it still continues to do) the ditches of the walles, *ubi non defenditur Vagá*, and goeth down, leaving the Castle on the right hand, and thence drieving two miles for come, goeth into Wye a *flyte shoote* beneath Wye Bridge, and hard beneath the castle."

ensued. The Bishop himself, according to some accounts,\* together with seven Canons, and many other persons of all ages, and of each sex, were slain within the church, which was afterwards pillaged of its riches, and burnt. The flames from the Cathedral communicated to the city, the greatest part of which was in consequence reduced to ashes. According to the Welsh Chronicles, near 500 of Earl Ranulph's men were slain; and the "Britons returned home with manie worthe prisoners, great triumph, and rich spoiles, leaving nothing in the town but blood and ashes, and the walls razed to the ground."† King Edward, who was then at Gloucester, immediately collected an army to revenge these excesses; and Harold, son of Earl Godwin, to whom its command was intrusted, advanced into Wales, and obliged the late successful invaders to sue for peace.

Soon afterwards Harold returned to Hereford, and fortified it, according to Floriacensis, with a 'broad and high rampire.' Other authors also ascribe the rebuilding of its walls and fortifications to Harold, who is likewise said to have erected a CASTLE, but on this head the observations of Mr. Duncumb are particularly pertinent.

"When Harold rebuilt the walls, it seems highly probable, that he founded the Castle for the further defence of the town; yet on this point writers are not fully agreed. it is, however, well known, 'that the policy of Edward the Confessor induced him, in the early part of his reign, to fortify strongly places of consequence, and especially those most accessible or advantageous to his enemies, which was precisely the situation of Hereford, from its vicinity to Wales. *Edoardus, into principatu, cuncta sibi e republicâ a primo faciendâ existimans, loca omnia præsidis munire,*' &c. But Grafton writes, that 'Edward the Elder, son of Alfred, in the eighth

According to other records, the Bishop was the only person spared from the general carnage: his fate, however, was not the less severe, for, after suffering every cruelty the infuriate hatred of his enemies could suggest, he was at length put to death at Glasbury, in Brecknockshire.

† Powell's Chron. of Wales.

eighth year of his reign (908,) did build a strong Castle at Hereford:’ and a manuscript in the Harleian Library\* mentions, from Holinshed, that ‘Griffith, King of Wales, wasted a great part of Herefordshire, against whom the men of that county, and Normans,† out of the Castle of Hereford, went; but Griffith obtained the victory, slaying many, and toke a great prey.’ Sprott’s Chronicle also records, ‘*Edwardus Rex . . . . Castrum Herefordiæ . . . et Villam de Wyggemore condidit . . . cui successit Ethelstanus.*’

“To these accounts it is objected, that, had a regular Castle existed when Algar and Gryffylh got possession of Hereford, Leland would hardly have represented that it was ‘scant fortified’ on that occasion; nor would the Welsh Chroniclers have omitted to notice what would have added so much to the fame of their heroes, as the reduction of a considerable Castle. Camden observes, that ‘the Normans afterwards (i. e., after the Conquest) built on the east side of the Church, on the Wye, a large strong Castle, which some ascribe to Earl Milo.’ Hume also ascribes the building to the Norman Conqueror. others attribute it to William Fitz-Osborne, first Earl of Hereford, after the Conquest. Leland writes, ‘some think that Heraldus began this Castle after he had conquered the rebellion of the Welshmen in King Edward the Confessor’s time. Some think that the Lacys, Earls of Hereford, were the great makers of it, and the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford.’ Dr. Stukeley states, that the Castle was a noble work, built by one of the Edwards before the Conquest: and Giraldus Cambrensis, as quoted by Lambarde, attributes the building to ‘Randal Poer, when Shyrife of the shyre,’ but does not add the date.

“Now Camden’s idea, that Earl Milo was the founder, is obviously incorrect; for the Castle stood a siege some years before Milo was Earl of Hereford. Leland’s report of the Lacys is equally

\* No. 7366.

† These Normans had been introduced by Edward the Confessor, and respect was had to them after the Conquest, in a provisional law, intituled, ‘*De jure Normannorum qui ante adventum Gulielmi, cives fuerunt Anglicani,*’ *Taylor’s Gavel-kind*, p. 78.

equally groundless, as none of that family appear to have been Earls of Hereford at any period. The other accounts are, perhaps, best reconciled, by supposing that some rude fortifications, composed simply of earth, and thrown up after the British mode, might have existed before the time of Harold, and might even have acquired the appellation of a Castle, that on their site, Harold founded a regular work of stone, which his death, in 1066, prevented his finishing; and that the Earls, and some of the Sheriffs of Hereford, afterwards completed his design.\* Part of the materials used in the works erected by Harold, are conjectured to have been brought from the ruins of the Roman Station at Kenchester.

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\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 227, 228. The Castle "occupied a part of the south and east sides of the City, having the river Wye on the south, and being defended by a large and deep moat on the north and east sides, to the angle of which the wall of the City extended. This situation was well calculated for the defence of the Cathedral, which nearly adjoined it on the west, and probably that circumstance occasioned a preference to this particular spot, which does not seem well adapted to the general defence of the town.

"The Castle comprised two wards, the keep was in the smaller, towards the west, having a strong tower on the top, and a dungeon underneath. Leland describes the keep to have been 'high, and very strong, having in the outer wall ten semicircular towers, and one great tower within.' Dr. Stukeley termed it, 'a very lofty artificial keep, walled formerly at top, and having a wall in it faced with good stone.' In the eastern ward were the Gatehouse, a Chapel dedicated to St. Cuthbert, part whereof, says Leland, is '*opere circulari*;' a mill, and two dwelling-houses, perhaps intended originally for the accommodation of the Governor and his attendants. 'There is a fayre and plentiful spring of water, continues Leland, 'within the Castle; and that, and the piece of the brooke coming out of the ditch, did drive a mill within the Castle.' In every direction it must have been capable of very considerable defence against the modes of attack then known. on the south, the ground along the eastern ward fell almost perpendicularly seven yards to the river. on the east, the works stood on earth thrown up five yards, with a deep and broad moat in front, which were all

continued

The Domesday Book contains many interesting particulars relating to the customs and tenures prevalent in this city and its suburbs. Indeed, the account is so full, that it clearly shows the consequence which Hereford had attained; though its inhabitants, both within and without the walls, are in the same record stated to have been only 103 in the time of Edward the Confessor. This enumeration, however, must have been made subsequent to the storming of the town by Algar and Gryffyth; as the number of houses held under the Bishop, are also stated in the Survey to have been only sixty, though his predecessor had ninety-eight.

Hereford

continued on the north, until they reached the wall which inclosed the keep. The dimensions of the greater or eastern ward, measuring on the site of the walls, were nearly as follow on the south 175 yards; on the west 100, on the north 175, and on the east 196. The smaller or western ward was nearly one hundred yards in extent, on the south and east sides towards the north and west were three sides, each measuring sixty-five yards. 'There came also an arme of a brooke that runneth through a great piece of the town dike, by an arche made in the town wall into the Castle dike, and so compassing half the Castle, (that is the east and north sides of the larger court,) went into Wye; so that with the principall arme of this brooke, and with the arme of it going through the Castle dike, and with the maine stream of Wye River, the whole Castle was environed, but now the arme of the brooke cometh not through the Castle, yet it might soon be returned thither. The second ward, where the dungeon is, was also environed with water; for a piece of the water, that came through the dike, was turned that way.\* The entrance was on the north side of the eastern ward, over a great bridge of stone arches, with a draw-bridge in the middle. 'The Castle standeth on the left ripe of Wye River, and a little beneath the bridge, and is strongly ditched *ubi non defenditur flumine*; the wallies of it be high and stronge, and full of great towres it hath been one of the largest, fayrest, and strongest Castles in England.' † By the side of the ditch arose a spring, which superstition consecrated to St. Ethelbert ‡ this is situated on the north side of the western ward, and retains a degree of reputation to the present day." *Ibid*, Vol. I. p. 229, 231.

\* Leland's Itinerary.

† *Ibid*.

‡ Stakeley, Iter, Curiosum.

Hereford was then governed by an officer, or Bailiff, (*Præpositus*,) appointed by the Crown, whose consent it was necessary to obtain, before any inhabitant could leave the city: "he might then sell his house to any other person who would perform the usual service; but one-third part of the price given was paid to the King's officer. If any inhabitant was unable, through poverty, to discharge the accustomed dues to the Crown, his house became forfeited; and the *Præpositus* was to provide another tenant, and take care that the dues were collected. The owner of an entire dwelling-house within the walls, paid sevenpence farthing annually, besides fourpence towards providing war-horses: he was also obliged to mow grass in the King's manor of Marden, in the month of August; and to attend one other day, when ordered by the Sheriff, to collect hay together. He who kept a horse, attended the Sheriff three times in the year to the hundred courts, and to that of Wormelow. When the King hunted in Haywood Forest, every house was to furnish one man to assist in taking the game. Other inhabitants not possessing entire dwelling-houses, provided door-keepers for the Hall, whenever the King attended in person. On the death of any one who had served with a war-horse, the King was entitled to his horse and arms; where no horse was kept, ten shillings were paid to the King; or, in default, possession was taken of his house and lands: if any one died without having disposed of his effects, the whole became the property of the Crown.

"These customs prevailed within the walls: those in the suburbs were similar, except that in the latter, the owner of a house paid only threepence farthing. Other regulations were common to both: and when the wife of any inhabitant brewed, ten-pence was paid by ancient custom. There were six smiths, and each of them paid one penny for his forge, and furnished 120 *ferra* from the King's iron, for which each was paid three-pence; nor were they subject to any other service whatever. There were also seven *Moneyers*, one of whom belonged to the Bishop. When a coinage took place, every Moneyer paid eighteen shillings for the liberty of procuring bullion; and on their return with it, each paid twenty shillings daily to the King during one month; and the Bishop's Moneyer

Moneyer paid the same to the Bishop. When the King came to Hereford, the Moneyers coined as much as he ordered; but the King furnished the silver to make it: each of the Moneyers enjoyed the privileges of *Sac* and *Soke*, by which they were exempted from customary payments. On the death of either of the King's Moneyers, twenty shillings were paid to the Crown as a relief: but if he died without having disposed of his effects, the King, as in other cases, took possession of the whole. If the Sheriff went into Wales, the Moneyers attended him; and every one of them refusing to go, after a summons to that effect, paid a fine of forty shillings to the King. Earl Harold had twenty-seven Burgesses under him at Hereford, and these were subject to the same customs as the others. The Bailiff, or chief officer, paid annually twelve pounds to the King, and six to Earl Harold; the above customs being common to the tenants of each. The King also received these forfeitures, or penalties, in case of particular offences; for each of which one hundred shillings were paid to the King, whether the offender was his tenant or not.

"After the Conquest, King William held Hereford in his own demesne, and the English inhabitants remained subject to the above stated customs: but the French inhabitants were exempt from all forfeitures, (except the three noticed above,) on the payment of twelpence annually. The whole town thus paid to the Conqueror sixty pounds in silver coin, which, together with the emoluments accruing from eighteen manors, which were accounted for in Hereford, amounted to 335l. 18s. besides the mulcts, and other profits, arising from the hundred and county courts."\* Hereford continued subject to these regulations for some time after the Conquest.

The first Earl of Hereford, after the Norman Invasion, was William Fitz-Osborne, whose extensive power has been already noticed under the description of the Isle of Wight.† Among other laws, which exemplify the great authority of this nobleman, he enacted,

\* Duncumb from the Domesday Book, Vol. I. p. 295, 313, 315.

† See p. 336.



enacted, that no man of war, or soldier, in the county of Hereford, should be fined for any offence whatever, more than forty shillings.\* In Powell's Chronicle of Wales, Richard Fitz-Scrope is mentioned as Governor of Hereford Castle; when Edric Silvaticus, son of Alfric, Earl of Mercia, "taking advantage of King William's absence in Normandy, fell foul upon such as were appointed Vice-gerents and Governors of the Kingdom during his absence." If Fitz-Scrope was really Governor here at that time, he must have been subordinate to Fitz-Osborne, as the "original government of the Castle appears to have been hereditary in the provincial Earls."† Yet, however this may be, the Chronicle proceeds to record, that Fitz-Scrope, with the forces under his command, 'so bitterly gauled' Edric, by wasting and consuming his lands, that the latter "was compelled to desire aid of Blethyn and Rhywalhon, Princes of Wales, by whose help, to reconcile the loss he had received, he passed into Hereford, and, after he had over-run and pillaged the country to Wye Bridge, returned back with exceeding great booty"

In the reign of Henry the First, Walter, Constable of England, held in his custody for a time the Castles of Gloucester and Hereford; but King Stephen afterwards granted to Robert de Bellamonte, Earl of Leicester, on creating him Earl of Hereford, "the Burgh of Hereford, with the Castle, and the whole County of Hereford," with the exception of certain lands belonging to the Church and others ‡ These honors appear to have been granted him through his marriage with Emma, the heiress of the Breteuils, Earls of Hereford, the descendants from Fitz-Osborne. Soon afterwards, the Castle was seized by William Talbot, a partizan of the "Empress Maud, who advanced Milo, son of Walter, the Constable, before mentioned, to the Earldom of Hereford; granting,

\* Harl. MS. 4046.

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I p 231.

‡ The words of the grant are, *Burgum Herefordie et Castellum, et totum comitatum de Herefordcyre, præter terium episcopatus, et terram Abbathie de Rading et aliarum ecclesiarum, et Abbathiarum qui tenent de me in capite; et excepto, &c.*

ing, at the same time, to him, and to his heirs, the Castle and moat of Hereford, with other donations.\*

While the Castle was in the possession of Talbot, it successfully withstood a siege by the Royal forces; but three years afterwards, in 1141, the King invested it in person with a large army, and, after some resistance, it was surrendered to him by Earl Milo, who was divested of his honours; but his life was spared. Stephen is recorded, on this occasion, to have entered the city with great pomp, and to have sat crowned in the Cathedral on the Whitsunday following, during the performance of divine service.

In the reign of Henry the Second, Roger, son and heir of Milo, was restored to his father's Earldom; and "at the same time was granted to him, 'the mote of Hereford, with the whole Castel, and the third penny of the pleas of the whole county of Hereford.' Notwithstanding this mark of favor, Roger was afterwards induced, through the instigation of Hugh de Mortimer, of Wigmore, to fortify the Castle of Hereford against the King, but both the insurgents were soon reduced by that Monarch,† who is said to have detained the Earldom of Hereford in his own hands during some time afterwards."‡ The Earl of Hereford was persuaded to submit to the King by Bishop Gilbert Foliot, his kinsman. \*

When the confederated Barons, with the Earl of Leicester at their head, appeared in arms against Henry the Third, one of the first acts of open hostility was committed at Hereford, where Peter de Aqua-blanca, the Bishop, was arrested, and imprisoned, and afterwards expelled the kingdom, on account of his being a foreigner, and for his known attachment to the See of Rome. He was, however, but a short time absent. for the King, in a letter, dated at Hereford, on the fifth of June, in the following year, 1263, after seriously remonstrating with him on his neglect of ecclesiastical duties, commands him, all excuses set aside, "forthwith to repair to his Church; and that if he did not do so, he

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\* Duncumb from Vincent's Disc. Rapin observes, that this was the first instance of an Earldom conferred by patent. *Ibid.*

† Dug. Bar. Vol. I.

‡ Duncumb, Vol. I. p. 233.

willed him to know for a certainty, that he would take into his hands all the temporal goods belonging to the Barony of the same, which his progenitors gave and bestowed for spiritual exercise therein with a godly devotion ; and as such goods and duties were not turned to the profit and commodity of the Church, he would seize upon them, and suffer no longer he should reap temporal things, that feared not to withdraw and keep back spiritual, and refused to undergo and bear the burthen of the same. This recalled the Bishop to his office : but the power of the Barons again interposed, and he was once more seized, and that in his Cathedral, where his wealth was distributed in his own presence to the soldiers.

The records of the proceedings of the contending parties at this period are much confused ; but it seems evident, that Hereford, from its vicinity to the Welsh frontiers, and from the circumstance of the surrounding country being influenced to act in opposition by the adverse partizans of the Sovereign, and of the Barons, was subjected to continual alarms. Roger de Mortimer, who had been nominated by the King, Captain General of all the Royal forces in these parts, after being discomfited by Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, retired to the Castle, which was soon afterwards besieged by the Earl of Leicester, and the forces of the Welsh Prince, whose attacks were so powerful, that the garrison, after some time, abandoned it during the night, leaving the city at the complete disposal of the besiegers, who partly destroyed it by fire.

About this period, Peter de Montfort, Leicester's son, appears to have had the custody of the Castle\* committed to his charge :  
“ and

\* “ William Capon anciently held lands at Marden, in this county, by serjeancy, the particular tenure of which was, that he should be door-keeper to the Castle of Hereford : but during the reign of Henry the Third, this tenure was converted into Knight's service. In the first of Edward the First, Henry Pigot also held of the King, in chief, forty-four acres of arable land, by the service of conducting the King's treasure from this Castle to London. Other land, in various parts of the county, was held by a similar tenure, and in the succeeding reign, (fifth of

\* and a precept was made out to Walter D'Evereux, then Sheriff, and probably his predecessor in the government of the Castle, for delivering the issues of the county to this Peter, for the better strengthening the works of the Castle.\*\*

The haughty and unconciliating behaviour of the Earl of Leicester, who, after the battle of Lewes, had usurped all the authority of the state, and kept the King, and his gallant son, Prince Edward, so completely under the direction of his own adherents, that they were really prisoners, though indulged with the semblance of liberty, occasioned a powerful confederacy to be formed against him by the King's friends, with the Earl of Gloucester and Roger Mortimer at their head. Gloucester had previously retired from Parliament to his estates in Wales; and Leicester, who knew his influence, followed him to Hereford with an army; and that he might add authority to his cause, carried both the King and the Prince along with him. This, however, contrary to his hopes, proved the source of all his future calamities; for Gloucester, by means of his emissaries, concerted with young Edward, the manner of that Prince's escape, and which was soon afterwards effected as follows.

Edward obtained permission to exercise himself on horseback, in a meadow called Wide marsh, on the north side of the town; and the necessary arrangements having been previously made, he then mounted a swift horse, after fatiguing those of his guard, and rode off full speed, calling to his keepers, 'That he had long enough enjoyed the pleasure of their company, and now bid them adieu.' The appearance of a small party, under the Lords Roger de Mortimer and Ch Clifford, prevented any distant pursuit; and Ed-

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ward

of Edward the Second,) Richard Freeman paid a fine to the King, of half a mark, for his relief of certain lands and tenements in Fromvnton, which the said William held *in capite*, by the service of carrying a cord round the walls of the said Castle when measured: this tenure was afterwards converted to a payment of 7s. 7d. per annum." *Duncumb's Coll. p. 237.*

\* Dugd. Warw. p. 595.

ward was conducted in safety to the Castle of Wigmore.\* His escape so invigorated the hopes of the Royalists, that they immediately formed an army, which Leicester was wholly unable to withstand; and that ambitious Earl was shortly afterwards killed in the decisive battle of Evesham, in Worcestershire.

After the death of Llewellyn, and the subjugation of Wales by Edward the First, an attempt was made by some of the Chieftains of that Principality, to regain independence; but the endeavor was unsuccessful; and Mael Gwyn Vychan, with two of his associates, were first imprisoned, and afterwards hanged, in this city; the former being dragged to execution at the tails of horses. In the reign of this monarch, the Castle underwent various and essential repairs: in the next reign, however, it began to be neglected; and from that period was suffered gradually to decay, the subjugation of the Welsh having divested it of all its importance in a national point of view.

The Great Council of the Realm, which deposed the unfortunate Edward the Second, was assembled in this city. and here that weak Monarch's equally unfortunate favorite, the younger Spenser, was executed on a gallows fifty feet high, by the Queen's order. Four days afterwards, anno 1326, Sir Simon de Reding, John Earl of Arundel, John Daniel, and Thomas de Michaeldure, his chief friends, were also put to death in this city. This is the last event of historical importance recorded in the annals of Hereford, from this period till the commencement of the Civil Wars, in the time of Charles the First, except, perhaps, the execution of Owen Tudor, (husband of Catherine of France,) with nine other Chieftains

\* The accounts of the Prince's escape vary in some particulars - Collins relates, that Edward, according to previous agreement, on sight of a person (said to have been the Lord of Croft) mounted on a white horse, and waving his bonnet on a neighbouring height, (Tillington Hill,) rode towards him at full speed, and was received as above related. Others state, that the plan for his escape was concerted between him and Mortimer only, and that the latter received him with his banner displayed, on Dinmore Hill, and thence conveyed him to Wigmore Castle. *Dugd. Baron.*

tains of rank, who were made prisoners at the battle of Mortimer's Cross, which proved so fatal to the Lancastrians.

At the time that hostilities commenced between Charles and his Parliament, Hereford is described by Lord Clarendon, as "a town very well affected, and reasonably well fortified, having a strong stone wall about it, and some cannon; and there being in it some soldiers of good reputation, many gentlemen of honor and quality, and three or four hundred soldiers, besides the inhabitants well armed."\* Notwithstanding these circumstances, so favorable to its defence, Sir William Waller appearing suddenly before it, "perswaded them fairly to give up the town, and yield themselves prisoners on quarter, without the loss of one man on either side; and to the admiration of all who then heard it, or have since heard of it."† The want of energy among the Royalist officers, and the unwillingness of the inhabitants to assist in strengthening the works, appear to have been the causes of this hasty surrender. Among the prisoners were Sir Richard Cave, Knt. Colonel Herbert Price, the Governor of Hereford; Lord Viscount Scudamore; Sir William Croft; Sir Walter Pye; and Colonel James Morgan. Some accusations were afterwards made against Sir Richard Cave, who had acted as Commander in Chief of the forces at Hereford, and was charged with 'dishonourably giving up the city,' but the confusion of the times prevented the enquiries being regularly pursued.

The Parliamentary army quitted Hereford shortly after its surrender; and it was immediately re-occupied by a strong garrison of Royalists, under the command of Barnabas Scudamore, Esq. brother to the first Viscount Scudamore. Two years afterwards, in 1645, it was besieged by the Scotch auxiliaries under the Earl of Leven, who commenced his operations on the thirty-first of July; but, after an ineffectual struggle of upwards of a month's continuance, and just as the Earl had completed his preparations for storming the city, he was compelled to retreat by the approach of the King, with a superior force, from Worcester. The entrench-

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\* Hist. Rebellion, fol. 312.

† Ibid.

ments thrown up by the Scots are still visible on different sides of the city.\*

Though successful in this enterprise, the cause of Charles soon became hopeless; and even Hereford continued but a short time in his hands: it was taken by a detachment of Parliamentary troops,

\* The most particular events which occurred during this siege, are thus detailed in a letter sent by the brave Scudamore to Lord Digby, and now preserved among the King's pamphlets in the British Museum, No 227, S. 5.

" On the 30th of July, I sent out a party of twenty horse over Wye Bridge, who discovering their forlorne hope of horse, charged them into their maine body, and returned in very little disorder, and with losse only of one trooper, taken prisoner, some of the Scots falling. Immediately after this, their whole body of horse faced us about ten of the clock in the morning, within reach of our cannon, and were welcomed with our mettall, good execution being done upon them; their foot as yet undiscovered. About half an hour after, I caused a strong party of foot, seconded with horse, to line the hedges, who galled them in their passage to the fords, after whose handsome retreat, I began to ensafe the ports, which I did that night. In the morning appeared their body of foot, and we found ourselves surrounded. I injoynd the bells silence, lest their ringing, which was an alarme to awaken our devotion, might chime them together to the execution of their malice. For the same reason I stopt the clocks, and hereby, tho' I prevented them telling tales to the advantage of the enemy, I myselfe lost the punctuall observation of many particulars, which, therefore, I must more confusedly relate to your Lordship.

" Before they attempted any thing against the towne, they invited us to a surrendre: this they did by a double summons, one from Leven, directed to me; the other from the Committee of both Kingdoms, (attending upon the affayres of the army,) sent to the Maior and Corporation, but we complied so well in our resolutions, that one positive answer served for both parties, which was returned by me to their Generall.

" This not giving that satisfaction they desired, they began to approach upon the first of August, but very slowly and modestly, as yet intending more the security of their owne persons, than the ruine of ours: but all their art could not protect them from our small and great shot which  
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troops, under the command of Colonel Birch, Colonel Morgan, and Captain Silas Taylor, who are recorded to have obtained possession by the following stratagem. " Letters from Colonel Birch informed the particulars of the taking of Hereford. that he hired six men, and put them in the form of laborers, and a constable

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with

fell upon them. Besides this, our men galled them handsomely at their several sallies over Wye Bridge, once beat them up to their maine guard, and at another demolisht one side of St. Martin's Steeple, which would have much annoyed us at the bridge and palace. This was performed only with the hurt of two men, but with the losse of great store of the enemies men.

" When they saw how difficult the service would prove before they could compasse their designs by force, they made use of another engine, which was flattery. The Maior and Aldermen are courted to yeild the towne, by an epistle subscribed by six of the country gentlemen, very compassionate and suasory; but upon our refusall to stoupe to this lure, they were much incensed that they had been so long disappointed, and having all this while continued their line of communication, they raised their batteries, commencing at Wye Bridgē, from whence they received the greatest dammage, but, instead of revenging that losse upon us, they multiplied their own, by the death of their much lamented General Crafford, and some others that fell with him. This provoked them to play hot upon the gate for two dayes together, and battered it so much, being the weakest, that it was rendered uselesse; yet our men stopped it up with wool-sacks and timber, and for our greater assurance of eluding their attempt, we brake an arch, and raised a very strong worke behind it.

" The enemy, frustrate of his hopes here, raised two severall batteries, one at the Friers, the other on the other side of Wye river, and from both these playes his ord nance against the corner of the wall by Wye side, but we repaire and line our walles faster than they can batter them, whereupon they desist.

" About the 11th of August, we discover a mine at Frien (Fryar's) Gate, and employ workmen to countermine them. When we had stopt the progresse of that mine on one side of the Gate, they carried it on the other, which we also defeated, by making a sally-port, and issuing forth, did break it open, and fire it.

\* About



with them, with a warrant to bring these men to work in the town; that in the night he lodged these men within three quarters musket-shot of the town, and 150 firelocks near them; and himself with the

“ About the 13th they raise batteries round about the town, and make a bridge over Wye river. The 14th Dr. Scudamore is sent by them, to desire admittance for three country gentlemen, who pretended, in their letters, to impart something of consequence to the good of the city and country. Free leave of ingresse and egress was allowed them; but, being admitted, their suggestions were found to us so frivolous and impertinent, that they were dismissed, not without some disrelish and neglect, and the said Doctor, after they had passed the port, coming back from his company, was unfortunately slain by a shot from the enemy.

“ About the 16th they discover the face of their battery against Fren- Gate, with five severall gun-ports, from hence they played foure cannon jointly at our walls, and made a breach, which was instantly made up; they doe the like on the other side, with the like successe.

“ The 17th a notable sally was made at St. Owen's Church with great execution, and divers prisoners taken, with the losse of only one man: at the same time little boys strived which should first carry torches and faggots to fire their works, which was performed to some purpose; and so it was at the same sally port once before, though with a fewer number, and, therefore, with lesse execution. And I may not forget to acquaint your Lordship with those other foure sallies, made by us at the Castle to good effect; and what emulation there was between the souldiers and citizens, which should be most engaged in them.

“ Now their losse of prisoners, slaughter of men, and dishonour of being beaten out of their workes, which they found ready to flame about their eares, if they returned presently into them, had so kindled their indignation, that presently they raised batteries against St Owen's Church, and played fiercely at it, but to little purpose, which they so easily perceived, that, from the 20th until the 27th there was a great calme on all sides, we as willing to provide ourselves, and preserve our ammunition from a storme, as they could be industrious and malicious to bring it upon us. Yet I cannot say either side was idle, for they plyed their mine at St. Owen's, and prepared for scaling: we countermined, employed our boyes by day and night to steale out and fire their workes, securing their retreat by muskietiers upon the wall; and what our fire could

the foot, and Colonel Morgan with the horse, came up in the night, after them, and cut off all intelligence from coming to the town, so that they were never discovered; that one night they came too short;

could not perfect, though it burnt far, and suffocated some of their miners, our water did, breaking in upon them, and drowning that which the fire had not consumed, and this saved us the paines of pursuing a mine, which we had sunk on purpose to render theirs at that place ineffectual,

“The 29th, Leven, a mercifull Generall, assaves the town by his last offer of honorable conditions to surrender, but he found us still unrelenting, the terror of his cannon making no impression at all upon our spirits, though the bullets discharged from them had done so much on our walls: this, though some of their commanders were remisse and coole at the debate, and some contradictory, drives their greatest spirits into a passionate resolution of storming, and to that purpose, August 31st, and September 1st, they prepare ladders, hurdles, and other accommodations for advancing their designe, and securing their persons in the attempt, and played very hot with their cannon upon Bysters-Gate, and the half-moon next St. Owen's-Gate, intending the morning after to fall on; presuming, as they boasted, that, ‘after they had rung us this passing peale, they should presently force the garrison to give up her loyal Ghost.’ But the same night, his Majesty advancing from Worcester, gave them a very hot alarm, and drawing a little nearer to us, like the sunne to the meridian, the Scottish miste began to disperse, and the next morning vanished out of sight —

“I may nor forget one remarkable piece of divine providence, that God sent us singular men of all professions, very usefull and necessary to us in this distresse, and so accidentally to us, as if they had been on purpose let down from Heaven to serve our present and emergent occasions, such as skilful miners, excellent cannoneers, one whereof spent but one shot in vain throughout the whole seidge, an expert carpenter, the only man in all the country to make mills, without whom we had been much disfurisht of our meanes to make powder, (after our powder mill was burnt,) or grind corne. That Providence that brought these to us, at last drove our enemies from us, after the destruction of foure or five mines, the expence of three hundred cannot-shot, besides other ammunition spent with muskets, and the losse, by their confession, of 1200, and, as the country says, 2000, men. we in all, not losing above twenty-one, by all casualties whatsoever.”

short; but the next night, with careful spies and scouts, they carried on the business; and in the morning, upon letting down the draw-bridge, the six countrymen, and the constable, went with their pick-axes and spades to the bridge; that the guard beginning to examine them, they killed three of the guard, and kept the rest in play, till the firelocks came up to them, and then made it good till the body came up, who entered the town with small loss, and became masters of it.\*

To elucidate this statement, it may be necessary to remark, that the country people had been summoned by the Governor of Hereford to repair to the city, for the purpose of assisting in strengthening the walls and fortifications, which had been greatly damaged during the siege by the Scotch army; and that some of the warrants issued on this occasion, having been intercepted, gave origin to the stratagem by which the city was surprised. Among the prisoners were the Lord Brudenell, and Judge Jenkins, together with many Knights and other gentlemen.

The bravery which the inhabitants of Hereford had displayed in resisting the Scotch, was rewarded, after the Restoration, by a new charter, and an augmentation of arms, with the motto INVICTÆ FIDELITATIS PRÆMIUM. No event of distinguished historical celebrity has occurred within the city since that period.

Among the public buildings of Hereford, the CATHEDRAL, though deprived of much of its venerable appearance by the fall of the west front in the year 1786, still stands pre-eminently conspicuous. This structure, as already mentioned, owes its origin to the murder of Ethelbert, King of the East Angles, by the Mercian King, Offa, whose many valuable donations to the Church which previously occupied the same site, and had been dedicated to St. Mary, has occasioned him to be sometimes considered as the founder of the New Cathedral (in the construction of which those gifts were applied) erected by Milfrid, a Viceroy, or Provincial Governor, under Egbert, about the year 825. The circumstances attending the murder of Ethelbert, are thus detailed by ancient historians.

Offa,

\* Whitelock's Memoirs, fol. p. 184, under the date Dec. 26, 1645.

Offa, whose principles had been corrupted by the possession of wealth and dominion, invited Ethelbert to his palace at Sutton Walls, about three miles north-east from Hereford, under pretence of giving him his daughter in marriage. Here Offa, with Quendreda, his Queen, received him with much apparent kindness; but the latter, impelled by the ambition of procuring a new kingdom for her family, quickly obtained the consent of Offa to violate all the ties of honor and hospitality, by putting their unfortunate guest to death. Some accounts relate that Ethelbert was beheaded; but others state him to have been precipitated into a hollow space beneath his bed chamber, where he was stifled by some partizans in the service of the treacherous Queen. His body was first interred privately at Marden; but soon afterwards Offa gave orders for its removal to the Church at Hereford, where he erected a magnificent tomb to his memory.

Ethelbert, who had been considered as the possessor of various eminent qualifications, was soon regarded as a saint, and many miraculous events were affirmed to have occurred at the place of his interment. Milfrid, the Viceroy of Mercia under Egbert, was induced to inquire into the truth of these reputed miracles, and the result of the investigation proved so satisfactory to him, that he determined to erect a new church of stone (*lapidea structura*) on the site of the former, and in honor of St. Ethelbert. The ample grants made by Milfrid himself, were augmented by the revenues arising from the gifts of Offa, and still further increased by the numerous offerings made by the pilgrims who flocked in multitudes to the shrine of the murdered King; so that the Cathedral was soon completed: but no description of its then state is supposed to exist. Within less than 200 years, however, it appears to have wholly fallen to decay; and was rebuilt by the munificence of Bishop Athelstan, or Ethelstan, who had been appointed to this See in the year 1012, and presided till the time of his decease in 1055. In that same year the Cathedral itself was destroyed by fire, during the hostile incursion of the Welsh under Gryffyth, and the Earl of Chester.\* it continued in ruins till about the year

1079,

\* See pages 441, 442.

1079, when Robert de Lozing, or Lozinga, was made Bishop of Hereford by William the Conqueror, and soon afterwards commenced a new structure on the model of the Church of *Aken*, now *Aix-la-Chapelle*, in Germany.\* Lozinga died in June, 1095, leaving the Cathedral unfinished; but his design was afterwards completed by Bishop Raynelm, Chancellor to the Queen of Henry the First, who was invested by the King with the ring and crosier about the year 1096, though he was not regularly consecrated till 1107. He held the See till his death, in October, 1115; and in the Calendar of Obits, was recorded as a founder of the Church, ‘*5 Kal. Oct. obitus RENELMI episcopi, fundatoris ecclesie Sancti Ethelberti*’ probably from the great extent of the work erected during his prelacy. The central tower did not accord with the plan pursued by these Bishops, but was built about a century after the decease of the latter, by the Bishop Engidius de Braose, or Bruce, who possessed the See from the year 1200 to 1216: in allusion to this event, the model of a tower is displayed in the left hand of his effigies, which lies upon his monument in the Cathedral. The tower over the centre of the ancient west front, appears to have been the next addition; and from the style of its architecture, and the character of its ornaments, may be referred to the reign of Edward the Second, or beginning of that of Edward the Third; about which period, also, some other alterations were probably made in the interior of the Cathedral. Further alterations were made at subsequent periods: the great west window in the above front was made under the direction of William Lochard, a Canon in this Church, who died in September, 1458; and a beautiful north porch was erected by Bishop Booth, between the years 1516 and 1535. The choir was fitted up and decorated by Dean Tyler about the year 1720; but the last alterations of any considerable importance are of very recent date, and have been effected since the year 1786, when the tower over the west front gave way, and fell to the ground, destroying all the parts immediately beneath it, together with the adjoining parts of the

\* Duncumb's Collections; from Antiq. Heref. p. 174.

the nave. The west end has since been rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, and the whole Cathedral been repaired. these alterations will be more particularly noticed in the ensuing description of this fabric.

The general plan of Hereford Cathedral is that of a cross, with a lesser transept towards the east, and a Chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, beyond it. From the intersection of the nave and transept, rises a square stone tower, which had formerly a spire of timber upon it, cased with lead, and rising ninety-two feet in height above the battlements; but this was pulled down during the late repairs, in order to relieve the arches of the tower from so much of the superincumbent weight. The greater transept is not uniform, its north end being more spacious than the south; yet an additional building, now used as the Chapter House, but originally employed as the Treasury, gives its appearance an air of symmetry. The Cathedral destroyed by Gryffyth and Algar, is supposed to have extended beyond the lines of the present building, and particularly towards the south-east, where, 'near the cloisters of the College,' Silas Taylor, the Antiquary, discovered, about the year 1050, "such stupendous foundations, such capitals and pedestals, such well-wrought bases for arches, and such rare engravings, and mouldings of friezes," as left little doubt in his mind, but that they formed parts of the Church erected by Athelstan.\*

The exterior parts of the Cathedral are very dissimilar in appearance, and particularly since the construction of the new west front, the architecture of which is extremely incongruous to the principles of the style it pretends to imitate. Whatever was the cause of this departure from the ancient character of the building, whether it arose from the inadequacy of the funds, or from the want of skill in the architect, its effects are certainly to be lamented, inasmuch as they detract greatly from the sublimity of the original design. The great door, as it now appears, can hardly be compared to any thing else than a very ill-formed niche, with an obtuse arch, bonded by two buttresses, and surmounted by battlements, the great window

\* Harl. MS. in the British Museum.

window is in the high pointed style; and the centre terminates with battlements, and has an empty niche. Besides the buttresses above mentioned, the façade has two five-sided and two common buttresses: the niches over the side doors are paltry in the extreme: the more beautiful front, whose place has been thus usurped, is described by Mr. Duncumb nearly as follows.

The original west-front was carried on in the Saxon style, as high as the roof of the nave in the centre, and of the aisles on the sides. At the west entrance, several series of small Saxon columns, with circular arches, intersecting each other, extended horizontally over the whole façade, and were divided from each other by lines, or mouldings, variously adorned. Under the first or lowest series of arches, the billet ornament prevailed; under the second, the embattled frette; under the third, the nail-head; and under the fourth, the zig-zag: the bases, shafts, capitals, and most of the arches, were plain; but some of the last were distinguished by the zig-zag, and others had the nail-head ornament, both of which decorated other parts of this front. The entrance was under a recessed circular arch, supported by five plain pillars on each side; and over the door and side aisles, mosaic patterns prevailed in the sculpture. "On the centre of this front a tower was afterwards constructed in the pointed style: it was raised on long and irregular shafts, awkwardly projecting from the inside of the original walls of the nave, affording an inadequate support, and proving, by their construction, that the tower itself formed no part of the original building or design." The central window, which was greatly enlarged, and altered into the pointed form, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Sixth, was divided horizontally into three parts, by stone transoms; and each was again divided perpendicularly, by mullions, into six lights, terminating above in trefoil arches. Over the point of the arch "was a human face, with foliage expanding on each side in the form of wings; this served as a corbel to a small ornamented column, which rose to the parapet of the tower: on the sides of the window, under cinquefoil arches, were effigies, as large as life, of St. Paul and Bishop Cantlupe, towards the north; and of St. Peter, and King Ethelbert,

bert, towards the south: under the feet of each a quatrefoil was sculptured over a trefoil arch; and long and slender shafts, supporting cinquefoil arches, with pediments and pinnacles, enriched with crockets, completed this range of sculptural decoration. Above the pinnacles were two rows of windows, four windows in each row. the upper contained two lights in the lancet form; the lower was somewhat less simple: a single mullion divided each into two lights, as before, and reaching the head, branched off to the sides, forming a trefoil arch over each light, from which an upright was carried to the curve of the window on each side, and completed the design. A border, resembling the nail-head, crossed the tower horizontally above, between, and below the windows: a similar decoration was also carried down the corners of the tower: above the whole was an embattled parapet, decorated with the trefoil arch. Four square buttresses, with Saxon ornaments, projected from the sides of the tower; and the extremities of the front terminated in hexagonal pinnacles, surmounted with crosses: those in the centre reached above the parapet; but those on the sides were lower by one third part.\* This tower was eighty feet in breadth, and 130 feet in height. Its fall was preceded by several intimations of its approaching fate, and some attempts were made to prevent it; but the decay had become too general to admit of this being effected. The arches entirely gave way on the evening of Easter Monday, 1786, and the whole mass instantaneously became a heap of ruins. The expence of rebuilding this portion of the Cathedral amounted to nearly 18,000*l.* and about 2000*l.* more was appropriated to the general repair of the central tower, and other parts of the fabric: of these sums 7000*l.* were subscribed by the clergy and laity, and the remaining 13,000*l.* charged on the estates of the church. The incongruity of the style of the new work was not the only detriment which the Cathedral suffered through the fall of the tower; even the foundations of the west front were removed more inward, and the length of the nave was in consequence considerably diminished.

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The exterior of the nave on the north side presents much of its original character, though the tops of the buttresses, clerestory windows, parapets, &c. are modern: the principal windows correspond with those of the south side. The *Porch*, which forms the grand entrance on this front, and was built by Bishop Booth about the commencement of the sixteenth century, is "constructed with four clusters of small pillars, supporting as many pointed arches, three of which are open to the Church-yard, and the fourth leads into the Cathedral. The columns are six feet in height, and rise twelve feet from the level of their capitals to the crown of the arch, making it lofty and pointed. The capitals are plain and circular, divided into several laminæ, gradual decreasing in their circumference from that which is uppermost. The three principal mouldings of the arch leading into the church are curiously sculptured; the first commences on the one side, immediately above the capital, with the representation of the half length of a man, apparently wearing a coronet; on the other side is a human head, with a mitre; fruit and foliage, not ill executed, complete the design of this moulding, the stem of the foliage being grasped in the hand of the half length figure. The next moulding begins above the capital, with a female figure resting on one knee; she also supports foliage above; and the design is repeated until it reaches the opposite capital. The third, or outer moulding, consists of a series of figures of men and animals, each six inches in length: it commences with a representation of a male religious, with a cowl, scrip, and staff; the second is a female, with a book; the third, a half length human figure, terminating in the tail of a fish, the fourth, a male, playing on a wind instrument, resembling a bagpipe; the fifth, an animal resembling a dragon; the sixth, a female in the attitude of devotion; the seventh, another female; from the eighth to the sixteenth, are generally fanciful beasts, or extravagant mixtures of the human and brute species; the seventeenth is a nutted religious, reaching the point of the arch. The opposite side of this moulding begins with a male human figure, somewhat defaced, the second is an old man, in a distorted attitude of devotion; the third is a bird, like a raven; the fourth,

an extravagant beast; the fifth and sixth, female religious; the seventh, foliage; the eighth and ninth, female religious; the tenth, a bird; the eleventh, twelfth, and so on to the seventeenth, male and female religious. The roof is vaulted with stone, and divided by ribs into angular compartments, with quatrefoils, and other foliage, at their intersections. On each side of the north or front arch, is an hexagonal turret, having winding stair-cases, which lead to a small Chapel over the porch: these turrets have windows on all sides, except the two which attach to the Cathedral. On the sides of the front or outer arch, are also three quatrefoils, in circles ornamented with foliage; above is a window, under an arch less pointed than those of the porch, and supported by small circular columns. This porch projects before the more ancient porch of the Cathedral, which is also vaulted with stone, and has ribs which diverge in three directions from each corner; those on the sides form the arch of their respective walls; and those in the middle meet in a centre orb, adorned with foliage. similar ribs also meet the orb at right angles from the opposite sides. In the east wall is a niche, eighteen inches high, under a trefoil arch, adorned with crockets."\*

At the south-east angle of the ancient porch is a small circular tower, with a winding stair-case; this reaching above the parapet, terminates in pediments, ornamented with crockets on the sides, and the heads of animals on the top. The north end of the *great Transept* is plain, but the summit is embattled, and its sides are strengthened by massive buttresses. On the east and west sides are two very lofty and narrow windows, of three lights, under sharp pointed arches, with small circular columns and mouldings; above are corbels; and still higher, on the parapet towards the west, is sculptured a range of trefoil arches. On the east side are also two of the ancient Norman windows, with circular arches; together with another small and circular tower, formed in the angle, and reaching above the roof of the transept. Between this and the lesser transept is a low *Chapel*, built by Bishop Staubury, about

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the middle of the fifteenth century, and having two windows under obtuse arches. The arches of the windows on the north and east sides of the smaller transept, are also of the obtuse form; and on the northern summit of this transept is a low and plain cross: the buttresses between the windows are very shelving and prominent.

On the north side of the Chapel dedicated to *Our Lady*, but now used as the *Library*, " are six windows, of the lancet form, supported by small circular pillars, similar to those in use at the beginning of the thirteenth century; and not uncommon in the reign of Edward the First. Between these are circles excavated in the wall, having in the centres human faces, and other devices; above is a series of intersecting arches and columns, the capitals of which are adorned with foliage: a plain parapet surmounts the whole. A porch, vaulted and groined with stone, projects on this side, and leads to the vaults under the Chapel. the outer arch is pointed, with a plain round moulding over it, the inner arch is also pointed, but has the zig-zag ornament the columns are plain and circular, and the capitals have some foliage on them. The east end of this Chapel has five lancet windows; those on the sides gradually declining in height from that in the centre. between each, on the sides, are two niches under trefoil arches, above are sculptured lozenges and other ornaments, of an oblong form: still higher is a series of pointed trefoil arches, with battlements above, and pinnacles at the angles. The windows on the south side are also of the lancet form, but are divided into two lights by a single mullion. above them is sculptured a range or series of Saxon arches and pillars, intersecting each other: still higher is a second series of similar arches, these are without columns, and form what is called the *corbel table*. A small *Chapel*, built by Bishop Audley, at the latter end of the fifteenth century, projects on this side, and forms three parts of a hexagon; each part contains two windows under the flat or obtuse arch, introduced about that period. the upper windows are divided into six compartments, by two mullions and a transom, much ornamented, the head is also ramified into many fanciful divisions the lower windows are smaller, and of more simple construction. The parapet above is embattled,

embattled, and has a row of small clustered pillars, sculptured immediately under it, and supporting trefoil arches.”\*

The south end of the smaller transept has two large windows, each divided by mullions into four principal lights, with cinquefoil arches; the spaces above terminate in a trefoil in the centre, and another on each side the east windows consist each of four lights under trefoil arches on the summit, towards the south, is a small stone cross. The south end of the great transept has “one large window under an obtuse arch, and a second, in a circular form above it, which includes a trefoil. The former is divided into six long and narrow lights, under cinquefoil arches; and the head is similarly divided into twelve parts, under trefoil arches: the courses of stone about it plainly demonstrate that this form is an alteration from the original window, and the same is observable in a more pointed window towards the west. This side has also a smaller window under an obtuse arch, containing three principal lights, sub-divided by transoms, and each light is terminated by a cinquefoil arch. the ancient form of this modernized window is probably to be collected from the Saxon arch, and zig-zag ornaments, of one in the same wall, the use of which has been superseded by that described, but above it is still to be seen a corresponding range of Saxon arches and columns.”† The principal windows on the south side of the nave, are seven in number, with strong projecting buttresses between them, they consist, like those on the north side, of four lights under trefoil arches, the head having a cinquefoil in the centre, with two trefoils under it above are corbels, representing roses, foliage, and heads of men and animals. The clerestory windows, which form part of the new work of the nave, are also under pointed arches, with corbels above, designed to imitate the former.

The great or *Central Tower* has lost much of its primitive character from modern reparations: in its original state it “was massive and embattled; the whole was richly studded over with nail-head; and it was further distinguished by the round moulding,

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triangular

triangular frette, zig-zag, and other appropriate ornaments in the Saxon style: but, although the form and decorations were thus strictly Saxon, the disposition of these ornaments were in conformity to the pointed style; whilst each side of the tower contained two ranges of lights, four in each range, and of the lancet form." When the spire, which has been already mentioned as having stood upon this tower, was taken down during the late repairs, among the other alterations, the battlements were raised somewhat higher; pinnacles and crockets were placed at the angles; and the effect of additional height was given to the tower itself, by flattening, or reducing, to an obtuse angle, the roofs of the nave and transepts.\*

The interior of the Cathedral is still very interesting; though its former venerable appearance has been greatly destroyed by recent alterations, and by the removal of various sepulchral memorials, painted glass, &c. The nave is separated from the aisles by a double row of massive columns, sustaining circular arches, curiously decorated with mouldings of zig-zag, nail-head, lozenges, interwoven twigs, and other ornaments: most of the capitals are plainly sculptured, but those nearest to the choir display some well executed foliage. The arch adjoining the south side of the choir, has, however, been altered from its original form, and stripped of its ornaments: the arches also nearest the west door, have been rebuilt in a plain manner since the fall of the west end. Over the arches, and immediately below the windows of the nave, is a range of arcades under pointed arches, sustained on small clustered columns. The whole roof is vaulted, and groined with stone, and divided, by ribs, into compartments of various forms: some of the orbs are adorned with human heads and foliage; and on one of them, in the south aisle, is a whole-length male figure in an oblong shield. The entrance into the south end of the great transept is under a low and pointed arch, which originally reached almost to the ceiling, but has been partly filled up; and over the door is a niche and pedestal: somewhat lower, on each side, is a smaller pedestal. The north end of the great transept, called *St.*

*Catherine's*

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 527.

*Catherine's Aisle*, is now used as the parochial Church of St. John Baptist: this is divided from a smaller aisle, on the east, "by two arches on small clustered columns, having plain capitals on the side pillars, and a kind of volute to those in the centre; these arches are decorated with ribbed mouldings, in various patterns; that in the middle consists of a series of small quatrefoils, in open work, which has a very light and handsome appearance; the outer moulding rests on human heads as corbels. Above is a range of arcades, under trefoil arches of elegant workmanship; each arcade is divided into three open compartments by small columns, clustered and circular; the head of every arch is ornamented with three quatrefoils in circles: the mouldings correspond with those of the arches, having the middle ornamented as before; and those on the sides ribbed. Between the outer mouldings of the several arches, the wall is well sculptured in a Mosaic pattern, representing four leaves expanded in each square: a cornice, similar to the ornamented moulding, extends horizontally over the whole, which comprises six arcades."\* The opposite or west wall, is less decorated; but it contains a handsome circular arch, originally used as a window: the arch is ornamented with a double row of zig-zag, resting on circular columns, with square capitals. the base of this window projects, and is marked with the hatched ornament.† Before the late alterations, the windows of the nave were adorned with the arms of various noble families, &c. in painted glass.

The nave is terminated by a plain screen, through which is the entrance to the *Choir*, under a pointed arch: above is a large and well-toned organ, over which a noble circular arch extends, and supports the west side of the tower; the arch is decorated with zig-zag and nail-head ornaments. The choir is lofty, and well proportioned; it contains fifty stalls, with ornamental canopies in the pointed style: these, though composed of wood, are painted \*of a stone color; under the seats are carved various grotesque and ludicrous devices and figures. Above the oak wainscoting on the sides of the altar, are rich open circular arches, with others still

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higher

higher in the pointed style: a flight of seven steps lead to the altar, which has a sumptuous and elegant appearance.\*

The eastern termination of the Cathedral is formed by the *Chapel of our Lady*, now used as the *Library*, and containing a valuable collection of books and manuscripts, arranged in classes: most of them relate to ecclesiastical history. One of the greatest curiosities in this Chapel, is an ancient *Map* of the world, on vellum, illuminated with gilt Saxon letters, and having inscriptions in black letter. The different places appear to be marked by animals, houses, &c. but the whole is so thickly covered by dirt, that the full design cannot be traced. This map is contained within a frame ornamented by foliage in the pointed style, and had originally shutters to preserve it from injury, it was discovered under a pile of lumber some years ago, and is even now sufficiently neglected. The windows in this part of the building are in the lancet form, and are separated from each other by receding clusters of small pillars, supporting pointed arches, richly ornamented with foliage and single leaves, in open-work of great elegance and lightness: the capitals of the pillars are similarly ornamented, and quatrefoils in circles are introduced over the windows. Beneath the library is a vault, or crypt, which has of late years acquired the name of *Golgotha*, from its having been made a place of deposit for the human bones disturbed in the repairs of the Cathedral.

The

\* In the possession of the Rev Mr. Russel, a Canon of this Cathedral, is a curious antique portable *Shrine*, considered as that of St. Ethelbert, a good engraving of which is given in Duncumb's Collections. Its height is eight inches and a half, its length, seven inches, its breadth, three inches and a half. It is formed of oak, covered with plates of copper enamelled, and ornamented with gilding. The front and sides are ornamented with figures, the heads of which are in relief, but the back part has only four small leaves repeated in square compartments. A red cross is painted within the shrine, on a part stained with a dark liquid. The representations on the outside are supposed to allude to the circumstances attending the death of Ethelbert. The colors of the enamels are blue, green, yellow, white, and red.

The interior of *Bishop Audley's Chapel*, which opens into the library, "has a vaulted roof, groined with stone, and divided by small ribs into various compartments; the ground of which is painted blue; and the ribs red, with gilt edges. The centre orb has a representation of the Virgin Mary, gilt, and surrounded with a glory of the same: on the orb are the ancient and modern arms of the See, and also those of the Deaury; others are decorated with foliage, and various appropriate ornaments. A gothic screen separates this Chapel from the library, and is painted and gilt, to correspond with the ceiling. Nineteen saints and religious persons are represented on this screen, in a range above; and others form a series below; they are placed in compartments, or niches, under canopies; and the whole is well wrought in stone, and richly painted in various colours."

In the passage, or aisle, on the north side of the choir, projecting into the burial ground, is the *Chapel* erected by Bishop Stanbury; the roof of which is vaulted, and adorned with sculptured niches, cinquefoils, and other devices. Some well executed foliage also ornaments the walls, which, on the north and west sides, are also decorated with shields, some of them allusive to scriptural subjects, and others displaying the arms of Stanbury, of the See and Deanery of Hereford, &c.

The general dimensions of this Cathedral are as follows. extreme length, 325 feet, from the west door to the choir, 130 feet; length of the choir, ninety-six feet; from the choir to the library door, twenty-four feet; length of the library, seventy-five feet; extent of the great transept, 100 feet; breadth of the nave and side aisles, seventy-four feet; breadth of the nave, thirty-eight feet; height of the body of the Church, ninety-one feet; height from the area to the vaulting, seventy feet.\*

The *Sepulchral Memorials* in this structure are still numerous; though many were defaced, and swept away, at the Reformation; others were demolished in the time of the Civil Wars, when the library, and other parts, suffered greatly; many are concealed by

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the

Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 581, 582. The length of the nave is now fifteen feet less than it was before the fall of the west front.



the pews in the north transept, "and more (*brasses*) were accidentally sold amongst the old materials, disposed of after the general repair in 1786: the last, which in a considerable degree might have supplied the want of appropriate decorations in the new part of the Church, were fortunately rescued from the furnace by a friend of the arts, and are now placed in the collection of Richard Gough, Esq.\*

One of the most celebrated of the tombs, or monuments, is that to the memory of the Bishop, THOMAS CANTILUPE, who died in the year 1282, and was canonized in 1310. The reputed sanctity of this prelate occasioned his tomb to be visited by pilgrims and travellers from all parts of Europe; and it is still regarded with veneration by the *Catholics*. It is composed of free-stone, in the altar form, and had originally a figure or effigies of the Bishop, inlaid in brass, together with two tablets, and an inscription round the verge of the same metal; but these are all lost or destroyed: above, over the whole tomb, is a low stone canopy, supported on each side by six trefoil arches, and by two at the west end; the end towards the east is attached to the wall: the arches rest on low circular pillars, with square capitals. Round the tomb, below these, under corresponding, but cinquefoil niches, are small full-length effigies of fourteen knights in armour, bearing shields: these figures have been much mutilated. Cantilupe is said to have been the last Englishman who obtained the honor of canonization; and Matthew of Westminster records that 163 miracles were performed at this tomb in a short space of time. So great, indeed, was the reputation which he obtained, that the succeeding Bishops of Hereford waved their ancient arms, which were *azure*, three crowns, *or*, and had been borne by Ethelbert, and the other Kings of the East Angles, in order to assume the paternal coat of Cantilupe, viz *gules*, three leopards heads jessant, a fleur de lis, *or*; and these arms have been continued to the present time.†

Under

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 581. In that splendid work, the 'Sepulchral Monuments' by the above learned antiquary, several of the tombs, &c. in Hereford Cathedral, have been engraved.

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 470.

Under a lofty arch, which opens from the aisle of the above transept into the passage next the choir, is an altar monument in commemoration of BISHOP AGUA-BLANCA, whose effigies, mitred, and clad in episcopal robes, lies on the tomb beneath a stone canopy, "supported by twelve light pillars on each side, forming six compartments in the lancet form, and terminating in trefoil arches: above, are three quatrefoils; and still higher, as many trefoils, all in circles, under small painted canopies, ornamented with crockets, &c. The whole is a beautiful specimen of the rich and light effect of the pointed style of architecture: it was formerly gilt and painted in a costly manner; but is now of a plain stone color."\* This Bishop died of the leprosy, in November, 1268: his heart was interred in a monastery which he had founded at Aqua-bella, in Savoy, the place of his birth: several benefactions were made to the Church of Hereford by this prelate.

In the north wall of the Libray, under recessed arches, are two ancient monuments, traditionally recorded to commemorate HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, Earl of Hereford, and his Countess; and, perhaps, with more justice than those attributed to the same persons in Gloucester Cathedral. Mr. Gough has observed, however, that the arms (now defaced) denote the husband to be a *Bohun*, though not an Earl of Hereford.† His effigies represent him in close armour, with the hands clasped on the breast, and a dog at his feet. Over him is a stone canopy, richly sculptured in the pointed style; and in front of the canopy are two human figures sitting; one holding a globe and a scroll, and the other with the hands clasped, as in prayer. The effigies of the Countess lies under a plain arch, on a tomb, the verge of which is studded with roses and human faces in alternate succession; she is habited as a nun, and has her hands clasped on her breast, and a dog at her feet. The Lady Chapel, says the antiquary just quoted, was probably erected by this lady, "as the ancient painting under the arch," shows her "in a nun's veil, as on the tomb, with a church  
in

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 569.

† Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 452.

in her hand, and pointing to a Chapel at its east end, which she presents to the Virgin on her throne.”\*

Under an arch in the south wall, and in which are two basons, or cavities, for holy water, is placed the mutilated effigies of a lady wearing a coronet. on her surcoat were painted the arms of England, which are now almost defaced: this figure was dug up some years ago in the entrance to this Chapel. Under another arch, in the same wall, lies the effigies of DEAN BEREW, or *Bore-rue* on the front of the arch are several boars passant, with leaves of rue in their mouths, in allusion to his name.

In the passage on the east side of the choir, in arches of the walls, are altar monuments of several Bishops, with their effigies episcopally habited, and also a large slab, beautifully inlaid with brass, in memory of DEAN FROWCESTRE, who died in the year 1529. The effigies of the Dean is represented under a handsome canopy, richly adorned, and supported by saints beneath, are Latin Verses on a tablet; and round the verge of the stone an inscription in black letter.

In the south end of the great transept is an altar monument, of alabaster, in commemoration of ALEXANDER DENTON, and ANNE, his first wife; their effigies are placed on the tomb, together with that of an infant in swaddling clothes. The lady died in 1566, in her eighteenth year, and was buried here, as appears from the inscription, which also represents this spot as her husband's grave, but erroneously, as he was interred at Hillesdon, in 1576, having married a second lady, who was likewise buried at the same place. Against the west wall of this transept is a handsome monument in memory of DEAN TYLER, who died in July, 1724, and of SARAH, his lady, who died in November, 1726.

In the Choir, and filling up nearly the whole space beneath one of the arches on the north side, is an elaborate monument to the memory of BISHOP BISSE, and BRIDGET, his Lady, who was daughter of Thomas, Duke of Leeds, and was Countess of Plymouth  
by

\* Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 452:

† Willis's Cath. Vol. I. p. 502.

by her first marriage: the former died in September, 1721; and the latter in May, 1718. In an arch on the north side of the altar, is the tomb of BISHOP BENNET, who died in October, 1615. and whose effigies lies under a canopy supported by black marble columns of the Corinthian order. Near this, on an altar-monument, is the effigies of Bishop BRAOSE, episcopally habited, and sustaining the model of a tower in his left hand: he died in November, 1215.

In the south aisle of the nave is an interesting, though mutilated tomb, in memory of SIR RICHARD PEMBRUGE, or BRYDGES, an ancestor of the Lords Chandos, who was Knight of the Garter in the time of Edward the Third, and died in 1375. His effigies represents him in close armour, with his hands in the attitude of prayer, and a greyhound at his feet. The right leg of this figure having been broken off, and lost, its place has been supplied by a new one of wood, on which the mechanic has absurdly carved a second garter, not knowing that this badge of the Order is by etiquette confined to the left leg; the arms of the deceased are repeated round the tomb on several shields in quatrefoils. In the opposite aisle, under a pointed arch, with a cinquefoil top rising to a pediment, with gilt crockets and a finial, is the effigies of BISHOP BOOTH, clad in a rich episcopal habit, with his head reposing on a pillow, on each side of which is an angel. this prelate died in May, 1535.

Besides the personages already mentioned, many others of eminence have been interred in this Cathedral: among them are the following Bishops, the dates that follow their names were the years of their decease. Robert de Lozing, 1095, Raynelm, 1115; Galfrid de Clive, 1119; Robert de Betun, 1148, Robert de Melun, 1167, Robert Foliot, 1186; William le Vere, 1199; Mapenor, 1219, Swinfield, 1316; Thomas Charlton, 1313; Trilleck, 1361; Lewis Charlton, 1369; Trevanant, 1389; Stanbury, 1474; Mayo, or Mayew, 1516; Westfahng, 1601; Landsell, 1634; Field, 1636; Croft, 1691; Butler, 1802. John Philips, the Poet, was also buried here, in the year 1708, at the age of thirty-two: an inscribed slab,

slab, in the north part of the great transept, marks the place of his interment.\*

“Under the second window of the south aisle, is a curious and very ancient font, recently brought from another part of the Church: the diameter is nearly three feet, and the sides four inches in thickness, leaving a vacuity sufficiently large for the immersion of infants. On the outside are represented, in relief, the twelve apostles in as many niches, under Saxon arches, studded with the nail-head ornament, and supported on pillars with foliated capitals, and further ornamented with the spiral band, zig-zag, and other corresponding decorations. Over the figures of the apostles, which are fifteen inches in height, and much mutilated, is a broad band encircling the whole, marked in relief with a series of ornament, resembling the letter T, alternately inverted: the whole is of common stone, and supported on the backs of four sea-lions.”†

Almost all the buildings dependent on the Cathedral are situated on its south side, where also was formerly a beautiful CHAPTER HOUSE, and a *Chapel* of very high antiquity. The former stood at a short distance from the end of the great transept, and was elegantly constructed in the pointed style of architecture. Its form was decagonal; and the roof was sustained in the centre by a single pillar, finely ornamented with figures, and other devices: the fan-work of the vaulting was extremely fine; the ribs sprung from stone arches resting on corbels between the windows. Beneath every window was a square compartment, containing five niches, in each of which was a well-painted figure, as large as life: these represented Our Saviour, the Apostles, and various Saints, Kings, Bishops, and other personages. The demolition of this structure was commenced during the Civil Wars, when it was stripped of its covering of lead, and exposed to the weather: its destruction was accelerated about the beginning of the last century

\* The cenotaph to the memory of this Poet in Westminster Abbey, was erected at the expense of Sir Simon Harcourt, afterwards Lord Chancellor.

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 539.

tury by Bishop Bisse (who pulled part of it down, in order to apply the materials to the reparations of the Episcopal Palace,) and has been wholly accomplished in the present, by the Chapter of Hereford, who have lately taken down the interesting remains.\*

A more glaring example of worse than Gothic barbarity of taste, occurred here during the prelacy of Bishop Egerton, who procured a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury to inspect the condition of the ANCIENT CHAPEL, which stood between the south side of the Bishop's Cloisters and the Palace. This Chapel was unquestionably Saxon, and of very early date. Dr. Stukeley has observed, that the architecture of the roof bore resemblance to that which prevailed during the declension of the Roman Empire.† Mr. Gough remarks, that it was not improbably antecedent to the Cathedral, as well as to the Palace ‡ and Browne Willis supposed it Roman work. It was wholly built of stone; the ground-plan, independent of the choir, and the space occupied by the west front, and its deeply-recessed entrance, formed a perfect square of about forty-two feet. The interior was divided into an upper and lower story; the roof was constructed with much skill, and supported by four massive columns rising from the ground, and from which arches were turned every way: above the roof rose a square cupola, terminating pyramidically. The upper story, or Chapel, was dedicated to St. Magdalen, and had several pillars against the walls, formed of entire stones: the lower Chapel was dedicated to St. Catherine. The principal entrance was on the west, under a retiring arch, or series of arches, sixteen or eighteen feet deep; at the outward and inner extremities of which were columns of single stones ten feet high. there was also an entrance in the middle both of the north and south sides: the walls were three feet and a half thick. This interesting specimen of the architecture of remote ages, was returned, by the Vandals who examined it under the commission, as ‘ruinous and useless,’

\* The annexed View represents the principal part of the Ruin as it appeared previous to the late removal.

† Iter. Cur. Vol. I.

‡ Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 452.

less,' and orders were given by the Bishop for its demolition; though "it was well known at the time that less than 20l. would have put it into as good repair as it had been in during four hundred years!"\* and so strongly were the stones cemented together, that after one-third of the Chapel had been taken down, the work of destruction was for that time relinquished, on account of the expence, which had even then amounted to upwards of 50l. Previous, however, to the year 1757, it must have been wholly destroyed, as the engraving in Taylor's Plan of Hereford, which was published in the spring of that year, describes it as 'a Chapel now taken down.' That the memory of such a venerable edifice might not be lost, a View of it was also engraved by the Society of Antiquaries, with a ground-plan.

The *Bishop's Cloisters*, which form the communication between the Cathedral and the Palace, inclose an area of about 100 feet square, appropriated to the purposes of sepulture, and distinguished by the name of *Our Lady's Arbour* the arches of the windows are obtuse, but the windows themselves are diversified by various ramifications. The west side of these cloisters was destroyed in the time of Edward the Sixth, and a *Grammar School* erected on the site. this also having become greatly decayed, was taken down about the year 1760, and a larger building was erected on the spot by subscription, "under an engagement that, in addition to the uses of a school, it should be applied to the triennial meetings of the three Choirs of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester, and to other public occasions: from this application it has been termed the *Music Room*."\* The materials of which it is built, are partly stone, and partly brick its length is eighty feet, its breadth forty, and its height the same. This school has the privilege of presenting to fifteen scholarships at St. John's College, Cambridge, in turn with Manchester and Marlborough. it presents likewise to fifteen scholarships at Brazen Nose College, Oxford. This school was founded in 1384, under the auspices of Bishop Gilbert.

The *Bishop's Palace* is an ancient building, pleasantly situated at a little distance from the banks of the Wye its outward appearance

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 541.

ance is by no means prepossessing, though many of the apartments are fitted up with elegance; the gardens are extensive, and occupy a gentle declivity contiguous to the river. The *Deanery* and *Prebendal Houses*, the latter of which are generally given to the residents, are situated nearly opposite the north-east angle of the Cathedral, but display nothing remarkable. The *College* is a venerable pile of stone building, surrounding a quadrangle of about 100 feet, and appropriated to the uses of the Vicars Choral. This appears to have been erected about the time of Edward the Fourth, and principally from the benefactions of Bishop Stanbury, before which the Vicars Choral had their residence in Castle Street. Besides the apartments for the vicars, it contains a spacious Common Hall, a small Chapel, and a Library, but the two latter are in a state of dilapidation. The *Cathedral-Yard* was long the burial-ground for all the parishes in the city, and for many of the adjacent out-parishes; but since the year 1791, the city parishes have each provided distinct places of interment.

The Members of Hereford Cathedral, are the *Bishop*, *Dean*, two *Archdeacons*, six *residential Canons*, including the *Dean*, a *Lecturer*, a *Chancellor of the Diocese*, a *Chancellor of the Cathedral*, a *Treasurer*, a *Sub-Treasurer*, a *Precinctor*, twenty-eight *Prebendaries*, a *First and Second Master of the Grammar School*, a *Chapter Clerk*, twelve *Vicars Choral*, being priests, including a *Custos*, an *Organist*, *Seven Choristers*, a *Verger*, and two *Sextons*. the *Dean* and *residential Canons* constitute the *Chapter*.\* The episcopal jurisdiction extends over the whole county of Hereford, with the exception of eight parishes, which form part of the diocese of St. David's, and also includes a very considerable portion of Shropshire, four parishes in Monmouthshire, eight in Radnorshire, six in Montgomeryshire, and twenty-one in Worcestershire. The present value of the Bishoprick is about 2000*l.* per annum

Previous

\* Duncumb's Collections. "The Dean and Chapter of Hereford, by their procurators, but the Dean and Arch-deacon in their persons, were summoned to attend Parliament, with the Nobles and Prelates of the realm, in the thirty-fourth and thirty-seventh years of Edward the Third, and twice afterwards." *Ibid* from Harl. MS



Previous to the Civil Wars, Hereford contained five distinct CHURCHES, besides the Cathedral, viz. St. Peter's, All Saints, St. Nicholas's, St. Martin's, and St. Owen's: the Church of St. John Baptist appears to have been at all times an appendage to the Cathedral. St. Martin's and St. Owen's were destroyed during the siege in 1645. *St. Peter's* was founded soon after the Norman Conquest, by Walter de Lacy, who had attended the Conqueror to England, and was rewarded for his services with various manors and lands in Herefordshire, and other counties. After the completion of the Church, the founder was accidentally killed by falling from the battlements, as he was inspecting the work: this occurrence, according to the Monasticon, happened in the calends of April, 1085. Hugh de Lacy, son of Walter, A. D. 1101, gave this church, with all its appurtenances, to the Abbey of St. Peter's at Gloucester, by which donation a religious fraternity, which his father had instituted here, in honor of St. Guthlac, became subject to that foundation, and was removed into Bye Street suburb. After the Dissolution, the great tythes of this Church were annexed to the revenue of the See of Hereford. No fewer than four Chantries had been founded here previous to the Dissolution: one of them, now the vestry, was originally open to the chancel; the piscina yet remains; as does also another piscina, in the north aisle, where the service of two of the chantries is supposed to have been performed. The nave is separated from the aisles by octagon columns on the south side, and by clustered pillars on the north. On each side of the chancel are seven ancient stalls, thought to have been designed for the use of the brothers of St. Guthlac's Priory: these are very elegantly carved into pannels, quatrefoils, &c. and have light and beautiful canopies of fret-work: the seats have carved figures beneath them, similar to those of the stalls in the Cathedral. This church was repaired, and partly rebuilt, in the year 1793, at the expense of the parishioners. The rectory of St. Owen's was united to this in the time of Charles the Second, but the right of individual patronage was preserved.

*All Saints Church* was given, by Henry the Third, to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. Anthony, in Vienna, who  
 pear .

appear to have formed a small society here to superintend their property, as early as the twenty-second of Edward the First.\* This edifice consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower rising from the ground, and terminating in a lofty and well proportioned spire: the tower overhangs its base considerably on the north side, but is sustained in its present situation by two new buttresses. The nave is separated from the aisles by circular columns, sustaining pointed arches: the roof is of timber, with ancient projecting angel brackets, pierced pannels, and pendants of foliage and flowers. Here are several stalls, supposed to have been appropriated to the brethren of the above society; the elbows exhibit grotesque carvings of men and animals; and the lower part of the seats are also filled with whimsical representations, particularly a monstrous caricature of a Monk: the canopies are light and elegant, and are beautifully ornamented with fret-work of quatrefoils, roses, and foliage. Here, as at St. Peter's, were four Chantries, the collective revenues of which were, at the period of their dissolution, of the estimated value of 20l. 1s. 6½d. per annum. Under the west end of this fabric, and contiguous to it, are several subterraneous passages and vaulted apartments. The south porch is embattled, and supported by buttresses; the entrance is under an open cinquefoil arch. St. Martin's, which is now annexed to this parish, was originally the Mother Church, as appears by a valuation made in the time of Edward the First, in which All Saints is distinguished as the Chapel. *St. Nicholas' Church* is a small edifice, consisting of a nave, north aisle, and chancel: this fabric has been recently repaired, but is still in a state of decay; and the chancel has the singular appearance of falling two ways, the north and south walls both leaning outwards. Here were two Chantries in honor of the Virgin Mary, endowed with lands to the amount of 9l. 11s. 4½d. per annum. Besides the above places of divine worship, Hereford contains a Meeting House for each of the following denominations of sectarists; Methodists, Dissenters, Roman Catholics, and Quakers.

VOL. VI. JULY, 1805.

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Various

\* Duncumb from Pryne, Vol. III. p. 590.

Various monasteries and religious houses existed in this city and its suburbs previous to the Reformation; but most of them are now down, and the sites are occupied by other buildings. The oldest foundation, independent of that of the Cathedral, was a Community of Prebendaries in honor of St. Cuthbert; and whose Chapel, according to Leland, "was once a fayre building of a circular forme." These Prebendaries, according to the same author, were removed to St. Peter's Church, by Walter de Lacy, under the appellation of St. Guthlac's Fraternity; and from thence, as before mentioned, his son, Hugh de Lacy, again removed them into the Bye Street suburb, where a house was built for their reception, and afterwards obtained the name of ST. GUTHLAC'S PRIORY. Here the secular brethren, by a change in their ordinances, became a Cell of Benedictines, subordinate to St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester, and so continued till the Dissolution, when the revenues were estimated at the annual value of 121l. 3s. 3¼d. and were granted, by Henry the Eighth, to John ap Rice, Esq. to be held in chief, on paying 8l. 12s. 0d. annually to the Crown. This Priory is represented in the Harleian Manuscripts to have been "very pleasant and large, having much land, spacious gardens and orchards, fine walks, a rivulet called Eigne running under the walles, with stately chambers and retirements, and a large and melancholy Chapel, built with many descents into it from the ground, and then of a great height in the roof." When this building was destroyed does not appear: its site continued in the possession of the Prices till the beginning of the last century, and again came into their possession in the year 1751; but was finally sold by them, in 1776, to William Symonds, Esq. of Hereford. This gentleman again disposed of it, in 1793, to the Trustees appointed to erect a New County Goal and House of Correction; and a very extensive building, on the plan of the benevolent Howard, has since been constructed upon the spot.

On the north side of the city, beyond the Wide-marsh Gate, are some remains of a MONASTERY of BLACK FRIARS, or *Friars' Preachers*, who were originally established in the Port Field, beyond Bye Street Gate, about the year 1276, under the auspices of

William

**William Cantilupe**, brother to the **Bishop Cantilupe**. From this situation they were ordered to remove by the Bishop in 1279, through a dispute with the members of the Cathedral; and Sir **John Daniel**, or **Deinvile**, having presented them with a piece of ground in Wide-marsh suburb, to which the Bishop annexed a second piece, they began to build a Church and Priory under the protection of their new patron; but he being afterwards beheaded at Hereford, in the time of Edward the Second, the work was suspended till the next reign. Edward the Third enabled them to complete the buildings according to the original design; and was himself present at the dedication of the Church, together with his son, the Black Prince, three Archbishops, and many of the nobility and gentry. This Friary became very flourishing, and many persons of distinction were buried here. On the Dissolution, the site and buildings were granted to **John Scudamore**, Esq. of Wilton; and **William Wygmore**, Gent. of Shoddon; but early in the reign of Elizabeth, they came into the possession of the **Couingsby** family, from whom the estate has descended to the present Earl of Essex.

The principal vestiges of this establishment are some decayed offices, and the remains of a **CROSS**, or *Stone Pulpit*, as it was originally built for the purpose of preaching from. The south side of the Prior's Lodgings is tolerably entire; it is sustained by three buttresses, and in the basement has two oblong windows, each divided by two pillars into three compartments, having cinquefoil arches: at the south-west corner is a circular tower. The wall on the north side is supported by four buttresses, but is much dilapidated; here part of the ruins are mantled with ivy. The *Cross* is constructed in the form of a hexagon, open on each side, and surrounded by a flight of steps, gradually decreasing as they ascend. In the centre is a base of the same figure, with two trefoil arches on each side, supporting the shaft of the cross, which, branching out into ramifications from the roof of the pulpit, and passing through it, appears above in a mutilated state: the upper part is embattled, and each angle is supported by a buttress. The picturesque effect of this beautiful remain is greatly increased by a large alder, which

has forced its way in four stems through the joints of the steps; and one branch twines round the pillar, and passes out through an arch of the hexagon.

About forty or fifty yards south-east from the ruins of the Black-Friars is CONINGSBY'S HOSPITAL, a charitable foundation, began by Sir Thomas Coningsby, Knt. in the year 1614, on the site of a small *Hospital*, anciently belonging to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. Leland notices, that in "Wyde mere Street, on the suburb without the north gate, ther was an Hospital of St. John, sometime an house of Templars, now an almes-house, with a chapel." This "was probably built in the reign of Richard the First, by whom it was given to the great preceptory of the order of St. John, at Dinmore, in this county, to which it seems to have been considered as a cell. On the expulsion of the order from England, 1540, it came into the possession of the Crown, but was restored to the knights in the fourth and fifth years of Philip and Mary. At length it was finally wrested from them, and granted, in the sixth year of Elizabeth, to Robert Freke, and John Walker. Soon afterwards it was purchased by the Coningsby family; and Sir Thomas Coningsby, Knt. began the foundation on this spot, of a comfortable retreat, 'for two of the most valuable characters in society, (although generally the most neglected,) the worn-out soldier, and the superannuated, faithful servant.' The adjoining ruins of the Black Friars supplied the materials for the new edifice, which was constructed in the form of a quadrangle, and comprised twelve apartments, a chapel, hall, and suitable conveniences. The previous occupation of the site by the Hospitallers, is expressly noticed in the deed enrolled in chancery, by Sir Thomas Coningsby, on this occasion: in this it is stated, by way of preamble, that, 'The said Sir Thomas Coningsby, &c. being seized in fee, of houses, lands, and parcels of the commandery, which were the inheritance of those knights of St. John of Jerusalem, formerly employed in the sustentation of Christian valour and courage, the said Sir Thomas ordained and constituted that all that quadrangle, or square building of stone, should be and remain an Hospital for ever, under the name of

*Coningsby's*

*Coningsby's Company of Old Servitors, in the Suburbs of the City of Hereford."*

" Under this arrangement, the corporation of these new Knights Hospitallers, consists of a Corporal, Chaplain, and ten Servitors. The Chaplain must be a graduate in the University of Oxford, ' a preacher well read, and well spoken; and, above all, of honest and discreet conversation. Six of the Servitors are required to be soldiers of three years service at least, and natives of one of the counties of Hereford, Worcester, or <sup>\*</sup>Salop; and if six of this description should not be found, the deficiency is supplied by mariners, born as above, and of three years tried employment at sea: the other five old serving men, of seven years service at least; and in want of better maintenance. One of the servitors being a soldier, is called the *Corporal* of Comngsby's Company, and acts as chief or Governor on the spot: but the owner in fee of Hampton Court (in this county) is considered and styled the Commander of the Hospital, and the Servitors are to address him by that title only, ' in memory of those worthy governors who once presided over the military society in this place.'

" On the subject of apparel, the founder directed that each Servitor should have, on his admittance, a fustian suit of ginger colour, of a soldier-like fashion, and seemly laced: a soldier-like jerkin, with half sleeves; and a square shirt down half the thigh, with a *moncado*, or Spanish cap; a sword to wear abroad; a cloak of red cloth, lined with red baize, and reaching to the knee, to be worn in walks or journeys; and a gown of red cloth, reaching to the ankle, lined also with baize, to be worn within the hospital; and on the feast of Pentecost, every alternate year afterwards, a similar cap and jerkin were directed to be given to each member: the whole to be for ever of the said fashion as those delivered at the first admittance."

The subsistence of each member is stated in the deed, " to be two loaves of good wheaten bread, weighing four pounds each, weekly; two full ale-quarts of beer every day; also two cheeses of the best Shropshire sort, of forty pounds weight, and three gallons of good and wholesome butter, to be delivered yearly, together

with 100 faggots, not less than one yard in length, and thirty inches in compass. It was further directed, that there should be for ever kept, on good ground near the Hospital, such a stock of kine as would enable every member to purchase one quart of milk every day, at the rate of two quarts for one penny in the summer, and three pints for a penny in the winter. It was also appointed that on the festivals of Christmas, Candlemas, Easter, Whitsuntide, All Saints, and on every Sunday throughout the year, the members should have a dinner and supper in the Common Hall of the Hospital, out of the common stock, viz. a piece of beef roasted at dinner; and at supper, mutton and broth in a competent manner, with bread and beer beyond their weekly allowance; and a fire in the hall on those days, from All Saints tide to the first day in Lent. For their further maintenance, the Chaplain and Corporal were each allowed three shillings and fourpence per week in money, and every other Servitor two shillings and sixpence each; such payments to be made every Monday in the Common Hall, after prayers in the morning.”\*

Sufficient endowments were given by the benevolent founder for these purposes; but, from the great alteration in the value of money, and increase of the price in the necessaries of life, it has been found expedient to consolidate the several allowances into money payments, and the Corporal now receives 1l. 13s. 4d. monthly, and each of the Servitors 1l. 1s. 8½d. The vicarage of Bodenhams, with all its appurtenances, was directed, by a codicil in the will of the founder, to be given to the successive Chaplains. Over the door in the centre of the Hospital, are two small Ionic pillars, inclosing a tablet, with the Coningsby arms; *gules*, three conies, *argent*, impaling those of Fitz William, *lozenges*, *argent* and *gules*.† The front of the Chapel terminates with two arches, over which is the shaft of a cross: the inside is quite plain: a piece of garden ground is attached to each dwelling.

Near the river, and not far distant from Wye-Bridge, was a House of GRAY FRIARS, founded, according to Tanner, by Sir William

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 404—407.

† Ibid. p. 409, -

William Pembrugge, Knt. in the time of Edward the Third; yet the Worcester Annals mention that it was flourishing as early as the year 1293. Many distinguished persons were interred here; and among others, according to Leland, the celebrated Owen Meredith, otherwise Tudor, who was beheaded at Hereford in 1461, and whose body was deposited, '*in navi ecclesie in sacello, sine ulla sepulchri memoria.*' Several of the Chandos and Cornwall families are also recorded to have been buried in this fabric. In the thirty-sixth of Henry the Eighth, the site and premises were granted to James Boyle, one of the ancestors of the noble family of Boyle, Earls of Cork, Ossory, &c. and whose progenitors were settled at Hereford as early as the reign of Edward the Third. No vestiges of the friary buildings are now standing: the last remains appear to have been pulled down about the conclusion of the seventeenth century.

Besides the above religious foundations, there were several others in this city, of which not any interesting particulars have been handed down. Among the *Charitable Establishments*, those of the most ancient date are ST. GILES'S HOSPITAL, and St. Ethelbert's Alms-house. The former stands without St. Owen's Gate, and was originally founded in the year 1290, for "Fryars Grisey, or Savignian Monks."\* It afterwards became the property of the Knights Templars; and being seized by the Crown, was given, by Richard the Second, to the city of Hereford, and appropriated to the purpose of an Alms-house. The endowments are applied to the support of five poor men, who are each allowed 4l. 10s. monthly; clothes every third year, &c. The Hospital was rebuilt in the year 1770, by voluntary subscription: a piece of garden-ground is attached to each residence. ST. ETHELBERT'S ALMS-HOUSE "was erected in the reign of Henry the Third, principally by indulgencies and relaxation of penance, granted by the Bishops of Hereford, Coventry, Salisbury, and Ely, to those who contributed towards it,† The means of support must have been very considerable

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\* Leland's Itin. Vol. IV.

† The following is given as the substance of two of these indulgencies: "The Bishops of Salisbury, Ely, and Coventry, grant indulgencies for fifteen



derable at one period, as it appears, by the statutes of the Hospital, that alms were distributed daily to 100 persons, '*ubi centum quotidie refectos fuisse, regimus.*' Possibly a portion of the offerings made by those who visited the tomb of Ethelbert, was appropriated to this purpose.\* The revenues of this foundation, which now amount to 65l. per annum, are applied to the maintenance of ten poor women, each of whom has also an apartment and garden.

Several other *Hospitals* and *Alms-houses*, both for men and women, are distributed through this city and its suburbs; and various tablets of donations for the support of the poor, are hung up in the different churches. The relief of the sick has also been attended to in the establishment of a GENERAL INFIRMARY for the reception of seventy persons, with every convenience for attendants and nurses. The original promoter of this useful institution was the late Rev. Dr. Talbot, Rector of Helenswick. The spot of ground on which the Infirmary was built, was given by the late Earl of Oxford; and the expence of the building itself was defrayed by a very ample subscription, chiefly raised among the nobility and gentry of the county: the annual subscriptions in furtherance of the objects of the charity amount to about 400l. The Infirmary is pleasantly situated near the river, a short distance south-east from the Castle walks: it was first opened for the admission of patients on the twenty-sixth of March, 1776. The committee of subscribers, under whose superintendence the concerns of this establishment are conducted, has likewise the direction of the *Lunatic Asylum*, a building on the north east of the Infirmary,

fifteen days relaxation of penance, to all who contribute towards the erecting an Eleemosynary dwelling near the Church of St. Ethelbert at Hereford, now building by the Dean and Chapter, and Elias de Bristol, Canon of Hereford, in the houses which belonged to Stephen, the son of Hugh; and also towards the support of the poor which resort to the said Alms-house."—"Hugh Foliot, Bishop of Hereford, grants an indulgence and relaxation of penance for twenty days, for all sins repented of and confessed, to such as contribute to the support of St. Ethelbert's Hospital. Dated, 1231." *Price's Historical Account of the City of Hereford.*

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 432

Infirmary, erected about twelve or fourteen years ago, for the reception of twenty patients afflicted with insanity: this also was instituted by subscription. The education of the youthful poor is provided for by a *Charity School*, partly supported by voluntary contributions, and partly by revenues arising from donations and legacies: here fifty boys, and thirty girls, receive instruction and clothing; and small sums are given to provide many of them with apprenticeships. The *Work-House* is a convenient building, without the Eigne Gate, established on a general plan by a union of the parishes, and governed under a system of judicious regulations.

Among the buildings of Hereford, that yet remain to be described, is the new COUNTY GOAL, which has been already mentioned as occupying the site of the Priory of St. Guthlac. This building was completed in 1797, under the superintendence, and from the designs of the architect, Mr. John Nash. It is inclosed within a high brick wall, having a handsome rusticated gateway, with Tuscan pillars: the Keeper's Apartments have also a rustic front and pediment. The prison itself is spacious, having a House of Correction, Work-shop, Inspection Room, Infirmary, Chapel, Debtors Rooms, &c. together with four Courts, having gardens in them. The expence of this edifice, which is strong, clean, and well regulated, amounted to about 18,600*l*. The *City Goal* bears marks of considerable antiquity, and formerly composed one side of Bye Street Gate, over which, in niches, were two rude representations of human figures chained. This Goal containing one small cell, and three very high apartments, with a window in each; the whole very dry and clean: a dungeon beneath, once used for the purposes of confinement, has been converted into a cellar, by the interposition of Mr. Nield; whose benevolence of heart has induced him to pursue the plan of the much-lamented Howard, and to descend into the depths of misery for the god like purpose of alleviating distress.

The description of the CASTLE, in its ancient state, has been already given.\* it is now almost obliterated, the only vestige of any part of the building, being a fragment at the south west corner,

ner,

\* See p. 444, 445, (note.)

was, now converted into a dwelling. It seems probable, that this fortress was never effectually repaired after the siege in 1645, though it continued to be garrisoned till 1652, when the Parliamentary Commissioners returned it as 'ruinous,' and its materials as worth only the gross sum of eighty-five pounds. The area of the outer ward, called the Castle Green, is now surrounded by an elevated public walk, carried along the site of the walls, and much frequented from its pleasant situation: towards the north and east, this is shaded by a row of elms; and another walk, still more elevated, and forming a kind of semicircle, has been made on the site of the lower keep of the Castle. The mount in the upper ward, on which the principal keep was built, still bears the name of the Castle Hill.

The *Shire Hall*, which stands in the area called the *High Town*, nearly in the centre of Hereford, is supposed to have been erected in the reign of James the First, by John Abel, the 'expert Carpenter,' as he is called in the letter from the Governor Scudamore to Lord Digby,\* who constructed the mills on which the safety of the city so much depended during the siege in 1645. This building forms an oblong square, its length being eighty-four feet, and its breadth thirty-four; it is composed principally of wood, and now consists of only one floor, supported on three ranges of pillars; but in its original state it had "a second floor, divided into apartments for the accommodation of the fourteen trading companies of the city, viz. Bakers, Barbers, and Barber Surgeons, Blacksmiths, Braziers, Butchers, Clothiers, Coopers, Cordwainers, Glovers, Joiners, Mercers, Tanners, Tylers, and Weavers."† this floor was removed from motives of safety. Under the *Shire Hall*, the markets for grain and fish are held. at the east end is the Butchers' market; and at the west end, the poultry and butter markets.

Very considerable improvements have been made in the appearance of Hereford since the year 1774, when an Act of Parliament was obtained for the inclosure of about 150 acres of waste lands on

\* See p. 457, (note.)

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 414.

on the north side of the city, and which formed part of the tract called *Wide-marsh*; the other part having being inclosed as early as the reign of Henry the Eighth. Under the powers vested in the Commissioners by this Act, proper allotments were made to the various claimants; and ten acres of land having been set apart for the purpose of electing the Knights of the Shire, exercising the Militia, and other public uses, the residue was let on lease, and the produce applied to the discharge of the expenses incurred by "lighting, paving, pitching, and repairing the streets, lanes, and passages," of Hereford and its suburbs. "In dividing the whole, care was taken by the Commissioners, that a series of narrow inclosures, in the form of a circle, and connected by temporary fences, should be left as a *Race Course*; and they are still applied annually to that purpose."\* A very obvious improvement, however, is yet wanting; that is the removal of the irregular mass of wooden buildings termed the Butcher's Row from the uses to which they are applied, and which greatly impede the thoroughfare between St. Peter's Church and the Shire Hall. Some of these houses are of remote date, and curious in appearance; the principal beams in front being ornamented with tracery, and other carved work.

"In the jurisdiction which has prevailed in the city of Hereford, the Bishops appear to have retained a more than common share of the civil authority. Nearly half of the city, together with a considerable portion of the suburbs, form a district entitled the *Bishop's Fee*; within this district the Bishops have enjoyed very considerable privileges; and on particular occasions, their authority has altogether superseded that of the civil magistrate, by extending over the whole city. As Lords of this fee, they exercised the ancient rights denominated from the Saxon, *Infangenethef*, and *Utfangenethef*; by which they administered justice within their limits, and committed offenders to the custody of their own officers, in their own peculiar prison, which was situated within the walls of the Episcopal Palace. By *Chol* and *Cheame*, or *Theame*, they

they restrained and judged bondmen and villains, with their children, goods, and chattels; and by *Sac* and *Soke*, their tenants were excused from the payment of customary burdens and impositions. They also held an annual fair for the sale of merchandize within their fee; during its continuance, their power extended to all parts of the city; the markets were transferred from the usual places to that appointed by the Bishop: and a Porter was sworn at each of the city gates, to collect the tolls for his use. A Bailiff was annually elected by a Jury, together with a Serjeant at Mace, Leather-searchers, and Ale-Conners: they regulated the assize of bread and beer; and courts-baron, leet, and pipoudre, were held; and presentments, and other usual business, formally transacted.\* Some of these privileges are recorded as long standing, even in a charter of Edward the Confessor.†

The original charter of the fair mentioned in the preceding extract, was granted by Henry the First, about the year 1189, in commemoration of St. Ethelbert. It is still continued, with many of its formalities, and is annually proclaimed on the nineteenth of May, being the eve of the feast of that Saint. From the length of its duration, which includes the eve and whole octave of St. Ethelbert,

Duncumb's Collection, Vol. I. p. 294.

† *Ibid.* The limits of the Bishop's Fee do not appear to be distinctly known, as several persons, at different times, have been nominated Bailiffs, and afterwards excused serving the office, by alledging that they occupied no lands or tenements within the Fee: of late years, perambulations have been rarely made; and no record of the boundaries has been discovered. The names of Bishop's *Gate*, and *Street*, now abbreviated into *Bye Street*, and *Bye Street Gate*, seem so allude to the episcopal jurisdiction in that district; and the north end of Broad Street, in its name of *North Gate*, although centrally situated in the city, perhaps indicates the limits of the Bishop's Fee in that direction. In these and other parts, small sums, after the manner of chief rents, are annually paid to the Bishop; but the houses and lands within his Fee are so intermixed with others which do not acknowledge his jurisdiction, that it is impracticable to offer an accurate description of the limits. *Ibid.* p. 312.

bert, it has obtained the name of the Nine-Day's Fair; and during this period, the Bishop's Bailiff, according to the ancient custom, acts as Civil Magistrate; and on the Sunday preceding, attends the Cathedral and Palace with a Mace-bearer, and other officers, in procession. Besides this fair, four others are held at Hereford annually.

The extensive privileges thus possessed by the Episcopal See, have in former ages caused many disputes between the Bishops and the inhabitants of the city; disputes which generally terminated in the triumph of the Church, and the submission of the people. Since the rights of mankind, however, have been more understood, the exercise of most of these privileges has been silently abandoned, and the general laws of the country have superseded the coercion of an independant authority in opposition to admitted principles; and though the Bishop's Courts are still held, "the business transacted, consists of little more than the formality of swearing in a Jury, electing a Bailiff, and Serjeant, and presenting and amercing all who owe suit and service; and having been summoned, do not appear. The offices of Porters, Leather-searchers, and Ale-tasters, have long been discontinued."\*

The original incorporation of Hereford has generally been attributed to King John; but in the great roll of Henry the Third, in the second year of his reign, A. D. 1218, the inhabitants are stated as indebted to the Exchequer in the sum of 110 marks and two palfreys, in return for a charter from that King, which not only granted them the town at the former fee-farm rent of 40*l.* per annum, but also allowed them to have a guild and society of merchants and traders, with other privileges usually attached to a guild; and further exempted them from tolls, and various customary payments. This appears to have been the first regular grant of privileges to the inhabitants of Hereford as an incorporated body; although it is probable that King John might have conferred some privileges on them, as well as on the members of the Church.†

"The

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 311.

† Ibid. p. 345.

"The original charter of privileges granted to the inhabitants of Hereford, as an incorporated body, by Henry the Third, was confirmed, and occasionally enlarged, in the eighth of Edward the Second, the first and fifth of Edward the Third, and the seventh of Richard the Second, when the name of *Bailiff*, which had before been given to the chief Magistrate, was changed to that of *Mayor*."\* This charter was further confirmed by succeeding Princes to the time of James the First, who, in a new charter of confirmation, consolidates the privileges of the inhabitants, and ordained that the Corporation should thenceforth consist of a Mayor, Alderman, and Common Council, having a chief Steward, a Common Clerk, a Protho-notary, a Sword-bearer, and four Serjeants at Mace: the Common Council to consist of thirty-one persons, including the Mayor, and six Aldermen. This charter was wrested from the inhabitants in the reign of Charles the Second; but was afterwards restored towards the conclusion of the reign of his bigotted successor, and confirmed by William the Third in the ninth year of his reign: under its provisions, the city has ever since continued to be governed.

The first return of Members to Parliament made by this city, was in the twenty-third of Edward the First: the expence of supporting them was defrayed by a levy, one moiety of which was raised on the inhabitants within the King's fee; and the other on those within the Bishop's, Canons', and St. John's Fee.† The right of election is vested in the freemen only; their number is supposed to amount to about 1200. The freedom of Hereford is acquired by serving a regular apprenticeship to a freeman resident within the liberties; or by marrying a freeman's widow, or the eldest daughter of a freeman, having no male issue; the eldest sons of freemen are also entitled to their freedom, after going through certain forms of admission.

The

\* Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 535.

† MS. of Thomas Hearne, in the Collection of the late J. Walwyn, Esq. M. P. as quoted by Duncumb, Vol. I. p. 348.

The situation of Hereford on the banks of the Wye would be extremely favorable for its trade, if the navigation of that river was less precarious; but this is so entirely dependant on the state of the weather, that it cannot be made to answer the purpose of regular conveyance. The principal manufacture that is carried on here, is that of gloves, which is tolerably flourishing; and some progress has recently been made in the manufacture of flannels: hats are also made by a few manufacturers. Between thirty and forty years ago, an attempt was made to establish a manufactory of carpets, broad and narrow cloth, kerseymers, &c. but the death of one of the parties, and a want of sufficient encouragement, occasioned it to be given up a few years afterwards. About the same period an attempt was made to instruct the poorer classes in the art of spinning wool; but this design failed through some mismanagement; and the sum of 500*l.* that had been advanced by the trustees, from a fund for ‘employing the poor of the city,’ the original stock of which was bequeathed by Lord Viscount Scódamore in the year 1763, was irrecoverably dissipated. The sum originally bequeathed was 400*l.* and this having been put to interest on mortgage, &c. has now accumulated to the amount of upwards of 3000*l.* notwithstanding the above loss.

The *Wye Bridge* was founded as early as the time of Henry the First, and at his particular request; Bishop Richard, who held the See from the year 1120 to 1127, contributed materially to the work,\* The present bridge is supposed to have been constructed about the end of the fifteenth century: it consists of six arches; one of which was rebuilt after the siege in 1645, the former one having been destroyed to prevent the approach of the Scots. The same materials were employed in its construction, but its height was considerably reduced, from which cause the bridge has an irregular appearance.

The

\* *Pons factus super vagam apud Herefordiam tempore Henrici primi, ipso rege imperante, et p*ro*p*ri*is elemosinam ad tam utile opus erogantibus. Facta h*ab*ec partim consilio domini Ricardi, episcopi Hereford; qui pr*æ*cessit Roberto Betune episcopo. Leland's *Itin.* from Osbert de Clare's Life of St. Ethelbert.*



The *Theatre* of Hereford has some claims to notice, from having been the nursery of a Clive, a Siddons, and a Kemble: its direction, indeed, was for many years in the Kemble family, who had long been inhabitants of this city. The present Theatre is a very neat modern building, standing on the west side of the Broad Street; and having a pediment ornamented with busts, &c. Other sources of amusement are derived from Assembly Rooms, with balls and occasional concerts. The population of Hereford, as returned under the act of 1801, amounted to 6828; of which 3023 were males; and 3805 females: the number of houses at the same period was 1460.

Many persons of considerable eminence have been born in this city: among those whose celebrity has been most distinguished, are Roger of Hereford, Bishop Miles Smith, John Guillim, John Davies, Richard Gerthunge, Eleanor Gwynn, Gen. Stringer Lawrence, Captain James Cornwall, and David Garrick. ROGER OF HEREFORD was a distinguished writer in the time of Henry the Second. "He excelled in the knowledge of astronomy, as then understood, and published a Treatise on the subject, which was highly commended. Metals and minerals were equally the objects of his studies; and the nobility of England, in their patronage of this writer, materially contributed to the progress of those sciences which were recommended to notice by his example, and illustrated by his abilities."

MILES SMITH, D. D. whose talents were the means of his advancement to the See of Gloucester, was the son of a *fletcher*, or maker of arrows, in this city. He was born in the year 1550, and was entered at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1568; but afterwards removed to Brazen-Nose. Here he pursued his studies with such indefatigable attention, that, besides obtaining a complete knowledge of the Fathers, and Jewish writers, he obtained a thorough acquaintance with the Greek, Latin, Chaldaic, Syriac, Arabic, and Hebrew languages. James the First employed him in the Translation of the Bible; and to him and Bilson, Bishop of Winchester, was the revisal of the whole committed: the preface itself was entirely his own; and was deposited in his own handwriting,

writing, in the University Library. In 1612, he was promoted to the See of Gloucester, over which he presided twelve years; and dying in 1622, was buried in Our Lady's Chapel, in his own Cathedral.

JOHN GUILLIM, the celebrated herald, was born about the year 1565. "The early part of his education was received at the Grammar School in this city, from which he was removed, in 1581, to Brazen-Nose College, Oxford. Soon after his views in literature were completed at the University, he was appointed Portsmouth Pursuivant of Arms in the London College. In the year 1610, he published his *Display of Heraldry*, in folio, which; by a methodical and lucid arrangement, removed the obscurity that had previously involved the subject, and reflected the greatest credit on the perseverance and abilities of the writer: many editions of this work have been published; and it still retains its original esteem. He was made Rouge Croix Pursuivant in February, 1617; and held that office until his death, which happened the seventh of May, 1621."

JOHN DAVIES, a celebrated penman, was engaged as Writing-Master to Henry, Prince of Wales, son of James the First. "In the skill and acquirements of his profession, he had no competitor, being equally eminent in copying the various hands then in use, and particularly distinguished by an extraordinary quickness in writing the running hand." It is recorded by Grauger, that his characters were so small as to require a magnifying glass to read them; and Fuller observes, they were so correct, that it required some time to decide whether they were written or printed. He died at London, in the year 1618. RICHARD GERTHINGE was a scholar of Davies's, and is said to have excelled him in all the branches of the art. The quaint Fuller, in his commendation of these artists, has advanced into a strain of hyperbolism, not easily to be paralleled. "I am sure," says this writer, "that when two such transcendant pen-masters shall again be born in the same shire, they may even serve fairly to engross the will and testament of the expiring universe!"

ELEANOR GWYNN, or, as she was more familiarly denominated, *Nell Gwynn*, was born in an humble dwelling in Pipe-Lane; but

becoming an inhabitant of the metropolis, was engaged in the service of a fruiterer, and in that profession she first appeared in the lobby of a Theatre. The sprightliness of her temper, and the affection of a manager, introduced her upon the stage, and she quickly became a general favorite. Even the Monarch himself, the laughter-loving Charles the Second, was interested by her vivacity and humour, and made her a partner of his bed. She did not, however, immediately quit the Theatre, but still continued to display her talents in the airy, fantastic and sprightly effusions of the Comic Muse. "At this period (1670) she was delivered of a son, who was afterwards created Duke of St. Albans; and her grandson attained the honours of prelacy, and became the proprietor of that very Episcopal Palace which almost adjoined the humble cot where his maternal ancestor first drew her breath." In the high, and, at that period, not disgraceful situation in which she was placed, she displayed great liberality, and obtained a very considerable degree of popular approbation. Even to the present day, her memory has been cherished with a greater portion of general esteem, than is commonly obtained by the mistresses of a profligate Monarch. Her errors have vanished in the blaze of her munificence; and her generosity in promoting the establishment of Chelsea Hospital, will preserve the remembrance of her name to the latest ages: even the idea of that admirable institution is traditionally said to have originated with her. She died at her house in Pall Mall, in the year 1691.\*

STRINGER LAWRENCE, an eminent military officer, was born in the year 1697: the scene of his exertions was the East Indies, where he attained the rank of Major General, and was one of the first to introduce a proper degree of discipline among the soldiery. His talents greatly contributed to the preservation and extension of the Empire in India; and on his death, in 1775, the East India Company, in gratitude for his very eminent services, were at the expense of erecting a handsome monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

\* For additional particulars of this celebrated female, see Vol. I. p. 341, 342; and Vol. V. p. 619.

**JAMES CORNEWALL**, an intrepid naval commander, who lost his life in the memorable engagement off Toulon in February, 1743-4, was descended from an ancient and honorable Herefordshire family, and was born in the year 1699. He very early attained a respectable situation in the navy, and, after several appointments, was promoted to the command of the Marlborough, a first rate of ninety guns, then with the fleet in the Mediterranean, under the command of Admiral Matthews. Repairing to his station, he had soon an opportunity of signalizing his bravery, and in the subsequent battle, between the English squadron, and the combined fleet of France and Spain, both his legs were struck off by a chain-shot, as he was gallantly receiving the fire of the whole Spanish line, in order to cover the Admiral's ship, the *Namur*, which had been disabled in the fight. Though thus mortally wounded, with the spirit congenial to his country, he refused to quit the deck, and continued the engagement till he was killed by the fall of the main and mizen masts, which were shot away by the board. His fate was lamented by every class; and even the triumphant enemy declared, that at least 'one British Captain had on that day honorably maintained the glory of his nation.' His memory has been consecrated by a monument erected at the public expense in Westminster Abbey.

**DAVID GARRICK**, an actor of inimitable powers, was born in the year 1716, as appears by the following extract from the register of All Saints parish, in Hereford City. "David, son of Peter and Arabella Garrick, was baptized 28th February, 1716. H. Lewis, Minister." His father, who was a French Refugee, had at that period a lieutenant's commission in a regiment of horse then quartered in this city; but the place of his general residence was Lichfield, and thither young Garrick and his mother were removed, as soon as the latter had recovered her health. His education was liberal, though principally intended to fit him for mercantile pursuits, and was partly obtained at the Lichfield Grammar School, and partly received under the tuition of Dr. Johnson, who, at a subsequent period, accompanied his pupil to London, in search of the means of existence. Garrick, who had previously been an as-

sistan in the wine trade, to his uncle, a Lisbon merchant, embarked in the same business with his brother in the metropolis; but a passion for the stage, which he had early imbibed, at length induced him to engage in the theatrical profession; and under the assumed name of Lyddal, he made his first public appearance, at the Ipswich Theatre, in the summer of 1741, in the character of Aboan, in Oroonoko. His success was great, and at once determined him to make the stage his ultimate pursuit. In the December following, he appeared at London, at the Theatre in Goodman's Fields, in the character of Richard the Third. His performance of this arduous part obtained general applause; his fame spread with distinguished rapidity; and the 'new star in the east,' as he was called in the metaphorical language of the day, became the universal centre of popular admiration. Even in a sister country his talents proved equally attractive: and such crowds attended his performances at the Dublin Theatre, in the summer of 1742, that the confined air combining with the heat of the weather, produced a fever which proved fatal to many, and was distinguished by the name of Garrick's Fever. His next engagement was at Drury Lane, of which Theatre, in 1747, he became joint-patentee with Mr. Lacy, and opened it in the ensuing winter under his own management. His exertions were accompanied with every degree of success till the season of 1754, when the enmity of vulgar prejudice was excited by his having engaged a number of foreigners to fill up the parts in various new dances and balls which he had projected to introduce. The piece first prepared was entitled the 'Chinese Festival.' Aware of the intended opposition, he obtained a kind of sanction for its performance from the King, George the Second, by whose *command* it was once played, without any particular disturbance. On the second night, however, the clamour increased to riot, and the inside of the Theatre was rendered a complete ruin, the benches being torn up, the lustres and girandoles broken, and the scenery destroyed. Even the life of the manager himself was in some danger; and the protection of the soldiery was necessary to preserve his house from demolition. In this state of affairs, it became requisite that the piece should be

\* \*

withdrawn

withdrawn for ever; and proper explanations being published, the tumult subsided, and Garrick again became the general favorite. In 1763, his health being impaired, he made the tour of France and Italy, and on his return introduced some considerable improvements in the modes of conducting the business of the stage. In 1776 his increasing infirmities compelled him to abandon his profession as an *actor*, and his retirement was universally lamented: his last performance was the character of Don Felix, in the *Wonder*. In January, the same year, he sold his moiety of the theatre to the present R. B. Sheridan, Esq. and two others, for 35,000*l*. He died on the twentieth of January, 1779, at his house in the Adelphi, after an afflicting illness of several years. He was buried at Westminster Abbey, where a monument has been lately erected to his memory, inscribed with an elegant epitaph from the pen of the author of the *Gleanings*. Considerable praise is due to Garrick from his judicious revival of many old plays, particularly Shakespeare's: he was himself the writer of several dramatic pieces of merit, besides numerous prologues and epilogues of distinguished excellence.

About one mile north-westward from Hereford, on an angle of the road formed by its branching off in two directions, the one towards Stretford Bridge, the other towards Hay, is the remains of a stone cross, generally called the **WHITE CROSS**. The base consists of an hexagonal flight of seven steps, measuring ten feet each in length at the bottom, and gradually decreasing with the ascent, each step being eleven inches in height, and twelve in breadth. The first and only remaining stage of the shaft, is also hexagonal, its height being six feet, and the breadth of each face two feet, exclusive of a pillar between each. In these sides are as many niches, which contain shields, bearing a lion rampant: the niches are under pointed arches, supported on small columns. Above is an embattled parapet, with the mouldings and base of a second division of the shaft; but this, with all the upper part, has been long destroyed. the entire height, in its present state, is fifteen feet.

The traditionary account of the origin of this Cross ascribes its erection to Bishop Cantilupe, who is said to have been returning

towards Hereford, from his palace at Sugwas, when the bells of his Cathedral commenced ringing without any human agency, and that, in commemoration of such a miraculous event, he built the Cross on the spot where the sounds had first attracted his notice. Mr. Duncumb, however, has suggested another occasion of its construction, and which, in all probability, is the true one. In the year 1347, he observes, "an infectious disorder ravaged the whole county of Hereford, and, as usual, displayed the greatest malignity in the places most numerous inhabited. this created a necessity of removing the markets from Hereford, and the spot of waste ground, on which the cross now stands, was applied to that purpose. In memory of this event, Dr. Lewis Charlton, who was consecrated Bishop of Hereford a few years afterwards, caused this Cross to be erected: the lion rampant was the armorial bearing of this prelate, and is repeated on his monument in the Cathedral, with a similarity which so strictly pervades the whole architecture of the tomb and the cross, as to afford the strongest presumption that this was the real origin of the cross described."\*

On the south-east side of the Wye, about two miles below Hereford, is ROTHERAS, or *Rotherwas*, the seat of Charles Bodenham, Esq. whose family have made it their chief residence during three centuries. The mansion is a spacious and handsome fabric; it was erected by the grandfather of the present possessor: near it is a decayed Chapel, and extensive offices, which belonged to the ancient manor-house. The grounds are pleasant, and the adjacent woods display some fine timber. The prospect on the south-west is terminated by an eminence called DYNEDOR HILL, on which are vestiges of an ancient *Camp*, traditionally said to have been occupied by the Roman General, Ostorius Scapula. The views from

\* Collections, Vol. I. p. 399. As this, perhaps, is the last time we shall have occasion to quote this valuable work, we must here be permitted to discharge the debt of gratitude, by an acknowledgment of the very material assistance derived from it in the preceding description of Herefordshire. We trust that the reverend author will be enabled to complete his history, as it will form a very interesting addition to the stores of Topographical literature.

from this eminence are extremely fine : on the north-west, Hereford is seen rising with an easy ascent from the banks of the Wye ; and beyond it is spread out a beautiful vale, diversified with many interesting objects, and bounded by the mountains of Brecknockshire : in the horizon, in the north, and north-east, are the Clee Hills of Shropshire ; and towards the east, the Malvern Hills of Worcestershire . on the south-east, and south, is a pleasant and variegated country, animated by the meanderings of the Wye . on the south-west appear the Hatterel Hills, or, as they are more generally called, the Black Mountains. Dynedor Hill is cultivated to the extreme verge of the Entrenchment, the bank of which is covered with underwood ; the inclosed area is a large corn field, and several cottages are scattered at the sides.

HOLM-LACEY is a venerable seat belonging to Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who obtained it in marriage with Frances, daughter and heiress of Charles Fitzroy Scudamore, Esq. together with various other valuable estates in this county and in Gloucestershire. The *Scudamores* came into England with the Conqueror, and originally settled at Upton, and Norton, near Warminster, in Wiltshire, but removed to Holm-Lacey in the reign of Edward the Third, after the marriage of Thomas, younger son of Sir Peter Scudamore, with Clarice, daughter of Lady Clara, of the family of the Lacies, to whom this estate had previously belonged. The Scudamores derived their name from the *Cross Patée Fuchée*, the *Scutum Armoris Duxini*, which they originally bore as their arms, and which is thought to have been given them in commemoration of some memorable action in defence of the Christian Faith. Many of this family have been employed in distinguished offices, and some of them have been recorded as eminent patrons of literature. Sir James Scudamore, father of the first Viscount Scudamore, is the legendary ' Sir Scudamore,' of Spenser, whose tale, in the fourth book of the *Fairy Queen*, is particularly interesting. In the fifth Canto he is represented as lying down to rest in the house of the blacksmith, Care ;

- ↳ But wheresoere he did himself dispose,
- He by no meanes could wished ease obtaine ;
- So every place seemed painefull, and ech changing vaine.



And evermore when he to sleep did thinke,  
 The hammers' sound his senses did molest ;  
 And evermore when he began to winke,  
 The bellows noyse disturb'd his quiet rest,  
 Nor suffered sleepe to settle in his brest.  
 And all the nighte the dogs did barke and howle  
 About the house at scent of stranger guest ;  
 And now the crowing cocke, and now the owle  
 Lowde shriking, him afflicted to the very sowle.

And if by fortune any litle nap  
 Upon his heaveie eye-lids chaunst to fall,  
 Eftsoones one of those villeins him did rap  
 Upon his head-peece with his yron mail,  
 That he was soone awaked therewithall,  
 And lightly started up as one affrayd,  
 Or as if one him suddenly did call :  
 So oftentimes he out of sleepe abrayd,  
 And then lay musing long on that him ill apay'd.

In such disquiet and heart-fretting payne,  
 He all that night, that too long night did passe,  
 And now the day out of the ocean mayne  
 Began to peepe above this earthly masse,  
 With pearly dew sprinkling the morning grasse ;  
 Then up he rose like heaveie lumpe of lead,  
 That in his face, as in a looking-glasse,  
 The signes of anguish one mote plainely read,  
 And guess the man to be dismay'd with gealous dread.

John, created Viscount Scudamore, by Charles the First, was highly respected for his piety and learning. He was the particular friend of the Duke of Buckingham, and was so affected at the untimely death of that nobleman, that he relinquished his public employments, and retired to Holm-Lacey, where he quieted the emotions of sorrow, by attending to rural affairs, and has been recorded by Philips, as the first that brought the Red-Streak apple into general esteem. In 1634 he was called from his retirement, and sent

Ambassador

Ambassador to France, where he continued several years, conducting the business of his mission with much prudence and effect. On the breaking out of the Civil Wars, he took a decided part in favor of the King; and having been made prisoner by Waller at Hereford, his estates underwent a temporary sequestration, and he was himself deprived of his liberty for a considerable period. He died in 1670. His grandson, the last Viscount Scudamore, rebuilt the greatest part of the manor-house at Holm-Lacey about a century ago. He was the friend of Pope, who had been introduced to Lady Scudamore by her relation, Mr. Digby: she was the only daughter of Simon Lord Digby.

The good taste of the Duke of Norfolk, the present possessor of this seat, permits the mansion to remain unaltered, as a perfect specimen of the style of building preferred by our immediate ancestors. we can still survey the apartments which Pope so frequently visited, and where he wrote his 'Man of Ross,' in the same state as formerly. The family portraits, and the elaborate carvings by Gibbons, but little inferior to those at Petworth and Chatsworth, are still a part of their venerable ornaments. A mansion like this, preserved in a complete state from the incongruities of modern alteration, may be ranked among our national curiosities. The apartments are decorated with many valuable paintings, by Vandyck, Jansen, Holbein, and other artists of eminent merit. In the Saloon is a very conspicuous portrait of SIR JAMES SCUDAMORE, equipped for a Tournament, that splendid and frequent diversion of the reign of Elizabeth. Here is also a very capital picture, by Hamilton, of *Solomon and the Queen of Sheba*, who are represented as after their first interview, in a gorgeous palace, attended by the High Priest; in the back ground are several characteristic figures, with a group of musical girls of truly eastern form and elegance. a very rich arcade adds to the magnificence of the whole picture. The subject of this picture is happily chosen, the design is correct, and the coloring is rich and transparent; it has been exactly copied in stained glass by Eginton, for a window in the superb Castle at Arundel, which is now rising, under the auspices of the Duke of Norfolk, to almost unexampled grandeur.

Among

Among the other pictures are those of LOUIS THE THIRTEENTH, and his QUEEN; the latter is depicted in the attitude of nursing her infant, afterwards Louis the Fourteenth. These were given to the Lord Scudamore, when Ambassador in France, in the time of Charles the First: they were executed by Beaubrun, the court-painter of Paris, and the cotemporary of Vandyck, but with few pretensions to rivalry. In the Cabinet is a sketch of the head of the great Lord Strafford, copied in crayons from Vandyck, by Pope, who not only amused himself with poetry, when a guest at Holm-Lacey, but also with painting: this, with the exception of the portrait of Betterton, the tragedian, in oil-colors, which he gave to the late Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, and which is now at Caen Wood, is supposed to be the only proof remaining of the poet's talents as a painter.\*

The grounds at Holm-Lacy are very pleasant: the old garden, on the south front, was formed on the model of Hampton Court, in Middlesex, and with a very spacious terrace. The yew trees, which are disposed in straight lines, having been originally clipped into grotesque shapes, and for many years left to regain their foliage, very nearly resemble the cypresses of a Turkish cemetery. Near the Parsonage House is a remarkable *Pear Tree*, covering nearly a quarter of an acre, and forming an orchard of itself. For many years together its fruit has yielded from twelve to sixteen hogshead of Perry.

Nearly

\* Few of the English poets have cultivated the sister art with any great success. Flatman is noticed in Walpole's Anecdotes. Butler is said to have been a painter, but Dr. Nash, the Worcestershire Historian, who had seen them, speaks contemptuously of his performances. Dyer, the author of Grongar Hill, studied at Rome, and practised portrait-painting, but not happily. At Lord Harcourt's, at Nuneham, Mason has painted an altar-piece, the subject is the good Samaritan, but the execution by no means equals the design. We have lately had an example of the reverse, Shee, in his 'Rhymes on Art,' exhibits an instance of a painter gathering roses from the heights of Parnassus, and with tolerable success. Tresham, and Hoppner, also, have occasionally quitted the easel for the reed, and drawn from it a not unpleasing melody.

Nearly opposite Holm-Lacy, on the east bank of the Wye, is the pleasant village of FOWNHOPE, about half a mile to the north of which is an eminence crowned by an ancient *Camp*; and about twice that distance to the north, is a second *Camp*, occupying the summit of another eminence, called CAPLER HILL: the latter *Camp* is double trenched, and called *Woldbury*; the former has no distinct appellation. The Capler Hill is finely wooded; and from its summit the prospects are extensive and rich: the contiguous channel of the Wye forms a striking feature.

FALEY COURT, about two miles southward from Capler Hill, is a venerable mansion of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and anciently belonged to Sir John Kyrle, an ancestor to the 'Man of Ross:' it is now the seat of ——— Money, Esq. a descendant by the female line from the same family. The entrance, great hall, and dining parlour, are entire, and in good repair: a handsome farm-house has been fomed from the offices.

In this neighbourhood the Wye meanders in a very singular manner, altering its course into completely opposite directions, within a very few miles. Inclosed by one of these reaches of the river, below Fawley, is INGESTON HOUSE, an old and spacious brick mansion, long the residence of the Hoskyns family, and recorded as the place where Sergeant Hoskyns entertained James the First, by causing the Morrice Dance to be exhibited before him by ten old people, natives of Herefordshire, whose collective ages amounted to more than 1000 years.

On the banks of the Wye, nearly opposite to Ingeston, at a place called the HOLE IN THE WALL, are the remains of some ancient building, consisting of the foundations of some well-built walls, with huge stones lying about. the site is now partly occupied by many cottages. What is now shown as the *Hole in the Wall*, is an excavation formed in the rocky bank of a neighbouring garden; but the spot is so overgrown with brambles, as to be difficult of access. When complete, it consisted of a flight of steps leading downwards to a cavity, sufficiently capacious to contain about twenty persons: the roof was supported by a single pillar. The entrance to this retreat has fallen in, and the steps are now overgrown, and almost obliterated. On the ascent from the Hole

in the Wall towards Old Gore, is a hollow, extending about a hundred paces, in which, about thirteen or fourteen years ago, many *Celts* were turned up by the plough. These instruments were nearly of the same size, and had evidently been cast, as the marks of the mould were visible; some of them were rudely ornamented with two or three stripes at the sides: they were made of a semi-metal, nearly as bright as brass. One of them appeared to have been finished to a polish.

About a mile lower down, on the Wye, is another of the numerous ancient *Camps* that form a chain on the eminences in this part of the country. It occupies the summit of EATON HILL; the entrenchments are very perfect and deep: the area is cultivated, and intersected with hedges. A farm-house at Eaton displays vestiges of an ancient mansion; and the ground about it is called the *Park* of Eaton.

## ROSS

Is situated upon a rock, considerably elevated above the river Wye, and on its eastern bank: to those who travel over the causeway from Hereford, it assumes a very commanding and picturesque appearance: scars of the rock jut out from the green banks, and the whole is surmounted by the Church, which is surrounded by lofty trees, and exhibits its 'heaven-directed spire' from the highest point of the eminence. The origin of this town does not appear to be remote, though a few coins and medals have been found here; but not more than one or two of the Roman times, and those probably originally brought from the ruins of *Ariconium*. In the summer of 1804, a copper medal, in excellent preservation, and of considerable beauty, was picked up from a heap of rubbish: it had been struck in commemoration of the triumph of Trajan over the Daci. On one side was a head of that Emperor, with an appropriate inscription; and on the other, the representation of a horseman at full speed, darting a missile weapon at a recumbent figure. The interest of Betun, Bishop of Hereford, to whose See this manor was attached, procured the grant of a market for Ross from King Stephen; and Henry the Third constituted it a free borough. Camden only notices it as famous for its iron-works.

The

The annals of this town record no events of eminent historical interest; yet the adventitious lustre which it has obtained from its inhabitant, JOHN KYRLE, the celebrated 'Man of Ross,' has given it a degree of attraction far beyond its local importance. This distinguished model of benevolence was born at Whitehouse, in Dymock Parish, in Gloucestershire.\* The exemplary tenor of his actions, his extensive charities, and goodness of heart, procured him the love and veneration of all his cotemporaries; and happily for his fame, Pope, during his visits at Holm-Lacey, obtained a sufficient knowledge of his beneficence, to render due homage to his worth in his Moral Essays. The glowing colors of the poet's description, were in this instance, at least, attempered by the pencil of Truth; cold must be the heart that could relate in prose what Pope sung.

“ Who hung with woods yon mountain's sultry brow ?  
 From the dry rock who bade the waters flow ?  
 Not to the skies in useless columns tost,  
 Nor in proud falls magnificently lost,  
 But clear and artless, pouring through the plain  
 Health to the sick, and solace to the swain.  
 Whose causeway parts the vale with shady rows ?  
 Whose seats the weary traveller repose ?  
 Who taught that Heav'n-directed spire to rise ?  
 ' THE MAN OF ROSS,' each hisping babe replies !  
 Behold the Market-place with poor o'erspread !  
 The Man of Ross divides the weekly bread :  
 He feeds yon alms-house, neat, but void of state,  
 Where age and want sit smiling at the gate :  
 Him portion'd maids, apprentic'd orphans blest ;  
 The young who labor, and the old who rest.  
 Is any sick ? the Man of Ross relieves,  
 Prescribes, attends, the medicine makes and gives.  
 Is there a variance ? enter but his door,  
 Balk'd are the courts, and contest is no more.  
 Despairing quacks with curses fled the place,  
 And vile attorneys, now a useless race.

Of debts and taxes, wife and children clear,  
 This man possest five hundred pounds a-year.  
 Blush, Grandeur, blush ! proud courts, withdraw your blaze ;  
 Ye little stars ! hide your diminish'd rays."

The house in which Mr. Kyrle resided, is now the King's Arms, a respectable Inn, near the entrance of the town from Gloucester ; and a tolerable portrait of him is preserved here : the original likeness is in the possession of Lord Muncaster.\* He died in 1724, at the age of eighty-four, and was buried in Ross Church : on his monument is a medallion of Charity supported by Benevolence. The *Prospect Ground*, as it is called, adjoining the Church-yard, and the Walk that extends thence for nearly a mile to the southward, were formed by his liberality ; but they are not preserved in that order which his memory demands. The Prospect Ground is now merely a field, but enough remains to show that he intended it for a parterre ; and the Walk has been deprived of many of the trees that formerly shaded it, together with the seats for the 'weary traveller's repose.' the Summer House, also, at the termination of the Walk, is now in a state of decay. Along the edges of the rock which forms the foundation of this natural terrace, the Sand Martin digs his hollow nest : " this guest of summer," as Shakespeare observes of another bird of the same genus,

———— " Does approve  
 By his lov'd mansionry, that the heaven's breath  
 Smells wooingly here :—  
 Where they most breed and haunt, I have observ'd,  
 The air is delicate." MACBETH.

The peculiar salubrity of the air at Ross may be further illustrated by referring to the longevity of its inhabitants, not only in living instances, but in many memorials among the tombs in the Church and Church-yard, where numerous inscriptions record the memory of those who have attained to their eightieth, ninetieth, and even hundredth year.

The

\* Bonner's Perspective Itinerary, No. II. p. 19, (note.)

The *Church* is a handsome building, having a tower, and well-proportioned spire rising from the west end. It contains several monuments of the *Rudhalls*, the ancient proprietors of the manor of Rudhall, in this neighbourhood: among them are those of Judge Rudhall, and his lady, of the time of Henry the Seventh; and of Sir Richard Rudhall, who was knighted at Cadiz in the reign of Elizabeth. In the window over the altar, among other fragments of painted glass, is one representing a Bishop, with the inscription *Thomas Herefordensis*, in black letter. The views from the Church-yard, and contiguous Prospect Ground, are much celebrated: immediately below the eye, the river forms a fine semicircle, at one of the extremities of which are the ruins of Wilton Castle, and beyond it an extensive and luxuriant vale, terminated by the distant mountains of Pembrokehire. The principal near feature of this view, however, the course of the river, is hereafter likely to be lost, as the water encroaches so much every winter upon the southern bank, that even Wilton Bridge may probably in a few years be left dry, and the Wye form for itself a new channel over the causeway between the bridge and the town.

Ross is governed by a Sergeant, and four Constables. The streets are mostly on a descent; and are extremely rough and narrow, the houses appearing huddled upon each other. The *Market-House* is in a very decayed state, though erected so lately as the reign of Charles the Second: it is built of stone, and ascended by several steps; the upper part is sustained on semicircular arches, supported by three ranges of pillars, the space between them being open. The Bishops of Hereford had at one period a *Palace* here, on a plot of ground near the Church-yard; but this was in ruins even in Leland's time: the site is still called the Bishop's Court. The population of Ross, as returned under the late act, amounted to 2347; the number of houses to 553. Since the beauties of picturesque scenery have engaged so much popular attention, this town has become a kind of favorite resort for the numerous summer parties who visit the Wye, and boats, &c. are kept here for the accommodation of those who make an excursion down the river.



Opposite to Ross, on the western bank of the Wye, are the ruins of WILTON CASTLE, for several centuries the baronial residence of the *Greys*, of the south, who derived from it their first title, and who became owners in the time of Edward the First. Its present demolished state was owing to the Royalist Governors of Hereford, by whose orders it was burnt to the bare walls during the Reign of Charles the First, and in the absence of its then possessor, Sir J. Brydges. The remaining towers display a luxuriant mantling of ivy.

About three miles to the east from Ross, and nearly one mile to the south of the road leading from Gloucester, is ROSE or BURY HILL, the undoubted site of a Roman station, the ARICONIUM of Antoninus, which Camden, and other antiquaries, have placed at Kenchester; but which Horsley, on unquestionable grounds, removes to the neighbourhood of Ross; though the particular spot of its situation had not, in his time, been assigned. The distance of *Bury Hill*, or *Ariconum*, from *Glevum*, (Gloucester,) and *Blestium*, (Monmouth,) very nearly accords with those given in the Itinerary, viz. fifteen miles from Glevum, and eleven from Blestium. Camden records a tradition of the station Arconium having been ruined by an earthquake, and on this base, Philips, in his Poem on Cyder, has raised the following beautiful superstructure.

In elder days, ere yet the Roman bands  
Victorious, this our other world subdu'd,  
A spacious *City* stood, with firmest walls  
Sure mound'd, and with num'rous turrets crown'd,  
Aërial spires, and citadels, the seat  
Of Kings, and heroes resolute in war,  
Fam'd ARICONIUM, uncontrol'd and free,  
Till all-subduing Latian arms prevail'd.  
Then also, tho' to foreign yoke submit,  
She undemolish'd stood; and ev'n till now,  
Perhaps, had stood, of ancient British art  
A pleasing monument, not less admir'd  
Than what from Attic or Etruscan hands  
Arose, had not the Heav'nly pow'rs averse  
Decreed her final doom: for now the fields

Labor'd with thirst, Aquarius had not shed  
 His wonted show'rs, and Sirius parch'd with heat  
 Solstitial, the green herb —hence 'gan relax  
 The ground's contexture, hence Tartarian dregs,  
 Sulphur, or nitrous spume, enkindling fierce,  
 Bellow'd within their darksome caves, by far  
 More dismal than the loud-disploded roar  
 Of brazen engin'ry, that ceaseless storm  
 The bastion of a well-built city, deem'd  
 Impregnable · th' infernal winds, till now  
 Closely imprison'd, by Titanian warmth  
 Dilating, and with unctuous vapours fed,  
 Disdain'd their narrow cells, and their full strength  
 Collecting, from beneath the solid mass  
 Upheav'd, and all her castles, rooted deep,  
 Shook from their lowest seat : old Vaga's stream,  
 Forc'd by the sudden shock, her wonted track  
 Forsook, and drew her humid train aslope,  
 Crankling her banks .—and now the low'ring sky,  
 And baleful lightning, and the thunder, voice  
 Of angry gods, that rattl'd solemn, dismay'd  
 The sinking hearts of men. Where should they turn,  
 Distress'd ? Whence seek for aid, when from below  
 Hell threatens, and e'en Fate supreme gives signs  
 Of wrath and desolation ? Vain were vows,  
 And plaints, and suppliant hands to Heav'n erect.  
 Yet some to fanes repair'd, and humble rites  
 Perform'd to Thor and Woden, fabled gods,  
 Who with their vot'ries in one ruin shar'd,  
 Crush'd and o'erwhelm'd. Others, in frantic-mood  
 Ran howling thro' the streets ; their hideous yells  
 Rend the dark welkin : Horror stalks around  
 Wild-staring, and his sad concomitant,  
 Despair, of abject look : at ev'ry gate  
 The thronging populace with hasty strides  
 Press furious, and, too eager of escape,  
 Obstruct the easy way ; the rocking town  
 Supplants their footsteps ; to and fro they reel  
 Astonish'd, as o'ercharg'd with wine ; when, lo !  
 The ground adust her riven mouth disparts,  
 Horrible chasm profound ! With swift descent

Old Ariconium sinks, and all her tribes,  
 Heroes and senators, down to the realms  
 Of endless night. Meanwhile the loosen'd winds,  
 Infuriate, molten rocks, and flaming globes,  
 Hurl'd high above the clouds, till, all their force  
 Consum'd, her ravenous jaws the earth satiate clos'd.  
 Thus this fair city fell, of which the name  
 Survives alone. nor is there found a mark  
 Whereby the curious passenger may learn  
 Her ample site, save coins and mouldering urns,  
 And huge unwieldy bones, lasting remains  
 Of that gigantic race, which, as he breaks  
 The clotted glebe, the ploughman haply finds,  
 Appall'd Upon that treacherous tract of land  
 She whilom stood, now Ceres in her prime  
 Smiles fertile.—

Whatever degree of truth may accompany this effusion, it is certain, that the appearance of the soil at Bury Hill is very different from that of the adjacent country, which is inclined to red, while this is of an extremely dark hue. The area on which the city stood, according to tradition, occupied three or four fields, and several acres exhibit this darkness of soil. About forty or fifty years ago, great part of the ground was in an open and rough state, with heaps of rubbish overgrown with briars; but the proprietor, a Mr. Merrick, to whose brother it now belongs, resolved to inclose and level it; and in so doing, many antiquities were found, together with an immense quantity of Roman coins, and some British.\* Among the antiquities, were fibulæ, lares, lachrymatories, lamps, rings, and fragments of tessellated pavements. Some pillars were also discovered, with stones having holes for the jambs of doors; and a vault or two, in which was wheat, of a black color, and in a cinerous state. The surface is now very little undulated, but a few coins may yet be picked up, when, after

\* The circumstance of *British* coins being found here, is inserted in the authority of Mr. Dunster: see his edition of Philips's *Cyder*, second note, p. 20.

ter ploughing, the clods are broken by a gentle rain and innumerable pieces of grey and red pottery lie scattered over the whole tract, some of them of patterns by no means inelegant. The coins are chiefly of the Lower Empire; some of Constantius and Trajan have been found; many of Tetricus, and one of Antoninus Pius: on the reverse of the latter, is the Emperor habited as a High Priest, pouring out the contents of a patera upon an altar, over which is the sun, with the legend SACEDOS DEI SOLIS: the coins are of copper, silver, and gold.

Some of the large stones found among the ruins of this station, and which appear to have been used in building, display strong marks of fire. During the course of the last summer, in widening a road that crosses the land, several skeletons were discovered; and also the remains of a stone wall, apparently the front of a building; the stones were well worked, and of considerable size. The earth within what appeared to have been the interior of the building, was extremely black and shining: numerous pieces of pottery, bones of men and animals, and bits of iron, were dug up here. The adjoining lands are thickly sown with scoria of iron ore; some of considerable size: these, indeed, are scattered throughout this part of the country; in some places they lie in large heaps; they are most probably the produce of Roman bloomeries, and were connected with the works in the neighbouring Forest of Dean. A piece of land near this station bears the name of *Kill-Dane-Field*, though from what particular battle tradition is silent. For a gentle eminence, Bury Hill commands the view of an extensive range of country: to the south, rise the rival hills of Penyard and Chace; and westward is the whole fertile tract of Herefordshire, bounded by the mountains of Monmouth and Brecon.

The site of ECCLESWALL CASTLE, about one mile south-westward of Bury Hill, is now occupied by a modern mansion. This estate belonged to the Talbots, from whom it came into the possession of the Greys, Lords of Wilton; but it has since passed from their descendants into other hands.

Ascending from Weston, on the Ross road, through the wood that clothes the steep sides of Penyard Hill, the traveller comes to the very sequestered site of PENYARD CASTLE, which stood

on the south side of the eminence. This fortress, originally but of small extent, is now reduced to comparative insignificance; the only part now honored with the name of Castle, is the habitation of a woodward, who lives here in complete seclusion from the haunts of man. This humble dwelling has a pointed window, and an octagonal embattled chimney: in the garden, which occupies part of the area of the fortress, some massy fragments of wall may yet be seen, together with groined arches, and vestiges of pillars. In clearing the space for the garden, many human bones were discovered, interred beneath a mass of small tiles, forced obliquely into the ground; and in digging among the ruins, a few years ago, a kind of "vestibule, or spacious passage," was found, "with octagon pilasters, which have caps and bases in the Saxon style, from which spring semicircular groined arches, with handsome mouldings in sharp preservation."\*

When this fortress was built is unknown; it appears to have been constructed for the purpose of defending the narrow pass through the woods from Gloucestershire towards the counties of Monmouth and Pembroke, by the way of Walford and Goodrich. Whoever might have been its original founders, it appears that the Lords of Goodrich Castle, were also at times the Lords of Penyard Castle, and among others, the celebrated *Talbots*, Earls of Shrewsbury.† It was demolished in the Civil Wars. After the Restoration, it belonged to Anthony, Earl of Kent; but has since passed through several hands, and is now the property of William Partridge, Esq. of Goodrich. The family of Spence, of Hangwest, in Yorkshire, are recorded to have assumed, about the year 1638, as their arms, 'azure, three *Peny-yard* pence, proper.' Guillim supposes these coins to have been minted at this Castle, and with much probability; as silver pence, of a particular coupage, are sometimes found here.' ‡

Mention

\* Bonner's Perspective Itinerary, No. II. p. 15, (note)

† A fine stone figure of a *Talbot*, about three feet high, represented in a sitting position, was found in this Castle, and now sustains a sundial in the garden of a gentleman at Ross.

‡ An engraving of a Penyard silver penny may be seen in Bonner's Itinerary.

Mention is made in old writings of *Penyard Park*, and *CHACE*; the latter name is still retained by an eminence which rises on the west of the Castle, and is finely covered with oaks. On the summit of the Chace, towards the north, is a large square *Camp*, now partly overgrown by woods. The walk between Penyard Castle and Ross is very beautiful, though, from its retired situation, it is seldom trodden by strangers. A gradual descent winds along the woody heights, having the bold eminence of the Chace, covered with oaks, on the left, and an undulating vale in front, extending to the hills of Monmouthshire and the Black Mountains. through this the Wye pursues its mazy course. On emerging from the wood, the spire and town of Ross appear below, surrounded by a rich country, finely wooded, and variegated with orchards. The effect is considerably heightened by the approach of evening, when the sun is seen retiring behind the distant mountains, and throwing its last gleams upon the river, while the glowing vale is sinking into darkness.

Between three and four miles from Ross, on a finely-wooded promontory, round which the river Wye flows in a semicircular direction, stand the massive ruins of *GOODRICH CASTLE*, for a long period the baronial residence of the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury. By whom it was originally founded is unknown; though the near affinity of its name to that of '*Godricus Dux*,' who occurs as a witness to two charters granted by King Canute to the Abbey of Hulm, has given birth to a not improbable conjecture that he was the person. The *Keep* is evidently of a date antecedent to the Conquest; but the surrounding works are principally Norman; though various additions and alterations may be distinguished of the workmanship of different periods, even down to the time of Henry the Sixth.

In its general form, this Castle composes a parallelogram, with a round tower at each angle, and a square keep standing in the south-west part of the inclosed area. The common thickness of the exterior walls is somewhat more than seven feet. In various places they are pierced with oilet holes, of the form represented

beneath.\* The length of the longest sides, that is, those towards the south-east and north-west, including the projections of the towers, is about 176 feet; that of the south-west and north-east sides, about 152 feet.

The Keep, which, being of the highest antiquity, merits precedence in description, stands somewhat in the same manner as those at Porchester, Pevensey, and Castleton, close to the outward wall of the Castle, and, like them, had no window on the outside next the country. It had evidently three rooms, one above the other. all of them, however, were very small, being only fourteen feet and a half square, and the room on the first floor had no sort of communication within, with the dungeon beneath, which had not even a single loop-hole for light and air, but was connected by a very narrow passage to a still smaller dungeon, strongly secured, under the platform belonging to the steps of the entrance, and having a very small air-hole on the same side. "The original windows are the most truly Saxon that can be. that in the middle of the upper story seems to have remained just as it was from the very first, without any alteration; and the manner in which the two large side columns stand somewhat *within* the arch, is consistent with the fashion which was adopted by the Saxons, and continued even to the time of Edward the Confessor. The large zig-zag ornament on each side (between the columns) is in the rude form in which it was generally used by the earliest Saxons; and so also is that of the zig-zag moulding, or band, that is carried by way of ornament quite across the tower, just under this window, and it is very remarkable, that the middle projecting buttress is carried no higher than this ornament."† The window in the apartment beneath, is similar, in its general construction, but the columns which support the arch, are somewhat higher; and a semi-circular



† *Munimenta Antiqua*, Vol. III. p. 250. The description of Goodrich Castle, in this elaborate work, is illustrated by several plates and ground-plans.

circular moulding of zig-zag is carried beneath the arch: the middle part of the window has, however, been altered, a stone frame for glass having been inserted of the style and age of Henry the Sixth; and probably in the time of the celebrated Earl Talbot, whom tradition represents as having his *own* chamber in this tower. In this second apartment is a fire-hearth, and in an angle of the wall a circular stair-case, leading to the upper story. "To this stair-case is a most remarkable door-way, it has one large transom-stone, as if to aid the arch to support the wall above, and in this respect resembles several other Saxon structures, in which this strange kind of fashion seems to have been uniformly adopted; until it became gradually altered by the introduction of a flattish *under arch*, substituted in the room of the transom-stone."\*

The principal entrance was by a flight of steps on one side, distinct from the main building, and ascending to a platform before the door-way leading to the second chamber. The entrance to the dungeon, or lower apartment, was under a "very remarkable sort of pointed arch, formed of quite flat sides, which seems, from the appearance of the wall around it, and from its peculiar style, to have been inserted many ages after the tower was built, and in the time of Edward the Third; a suspicion that appears to be most strongly confirmed, by the circumstance, that about the twenty-second year of the reign of Edward the Third, Richard Talbot, its then Lord, obtained the Royal license† for having in his Castle a

K k 4

prison

\* Munimenta Antiqua, Vol III p 252.

† "Dugdale's Baronage, Vol I p. 327. In the *Archæologia*, Vol. IV. p. 403, I took occasion to remark, that grants for Castles to become state-prisons, were, indeed, in the early Norman times, very usual, but that we must by no means conclude, that, by such a *grant*, the whole Castle became a prison, just as we find some old Castles to be now entirely converted into prisons, for the fact most unquestionably was, merely that, in consequence of such grant, the *usual dungeon of the Castle* was, by *Royal authority*, appointed to be a *public* and privileged prison at *all times*, whereas the dungeon of other Castle were permitted to be used as such only in time of war, but the upper apart-

ments



prison for malefactors; having also the cognizance of pleas of the Crown, &c. within his Lordship of Irchenfield (or Urchenfield) and Wormilow. The bottom of the Keep tower would undoubtedly, as usual, be the place where such a prison would be established; and on that occasion, it should seem, therefore, that this new and strong door-frame was first there placed: whilst the very annexation of the Lordship of Urchenfield to the possession of this Keep tower, (both of which his Lordship appears to have been possessed of before this license was granted,) shows the exceedingly high antiquity of this Castle; since Urchenfield was, indeed, the very place where St. Dubricius founded his College of Religious, about 512, to live, like the original Eastern recluses, by the work of their own hands.\* The body of the Keep is an exact square of twenty-nine feet,

In describing the additions made to this fortress in the Norman times, and during the successive reigns, to the time of Henry the Sixth, we shall follow the plan pursued by Mr. King, and nearly in his words, begin with the very strongly-fortified entrance, which, commencing between two semicircular towers of unequal dimensions, near the east angle, was continued under a dark vaulted passage to an extent of fifty feet. Immediately before the entrance, and within the space inclosed by the fosse, was a very deep pit, hewn out of the solid rock, formerly crossed by a draw-bridge, which is now gone, but which evidently appears to have exactly fitted, and to have closed, when drawn up, the whole front of the gateway between the towers. About eleven feet within the passage was a massy gate, the strong iron hinges of which still remain :  
this

ments of these Keep towers, in which the dungeons were, continued in both cases to be constantly used as state apartments for the residence of the Lords of the mansion, notwithstanding the prison underneath. And hence, perhaps, arose the practice, in early times, of committing *state prisoners* to the custody of different Lords at pleasure, which custom was continued down to the time of Henry the Eighth, and even to that of Queen Elizabeth, when the origin of it was forgotten."

\* *Munimenta Antiqua*, Vol. III. p. 251.

this gate, and the draw-bridge, were defended on each side by loop-holes: and over head by rows of machicolations in the vaulting, for pouring down melted lead, &c. on the heads of assailants. Six feet and a half beyond this, was a portcullis; and about seven feet further, a second portcullis: the space between these was again protected by loop-holes and machicolations. About two feet more inward was another strong gate; and five feet and a half beyond this, on the right, a small door, leading to a long narrow gallery, only three feet wide, formed in the thickness of the wall, and which was the means of access to the loop-holes in the eastern tower, as well as to some others that commanded the brow of the steep precipice towards the north-east. These works appear to have been thought sufficient for general defence, but a resource was ingeniously contrived for greater security in case they had all been forced; "for a little further on are massy stone projections in the wall on each side, like pilasters; manifestly designed for inserting great beams of timber within them, like bars, from one side of the passage, which was about nine feet ten inches wide, to the other, so as to form a strong barricado, with earth or stones between the rows of timber, which would in a short time, and with rapidity, form a strong massy wall" Beyond these the passage opened into the great inner court.

The ruins of the Chapel run parallel with the entrance on the left; the style of the broken ornaments, and particularly of those about its great window, show this to have been repaired and adorned even so late as the reigns of Henry the Sixth and Seventh: in one part is a very remarkable niche; and near it a smaller niche for holy water. on the opposite side is also another niche for the same purpose. Beneath the Chapel was a deep vault, and over it a chamber, with a fire-place, which still appears projecting from the wall. Adjoining the Chapel, and near the entrance, is a small octagonal watch-tower, which rises above the other buildings, and commands a fine view over the surrounding country.

The buildings between the Chapel and the south or garrison tower, to the upper part of which a passage, or covered way, led along the top of the outer wall, are mostly in ruins: here appear

to have been the stables. The garrison tower adjoins the entrance to the keep; its foundation is a square of about thirty-six feet; but the three outward angles diminish as they ascend, and form triangular buttresses, so that the upper part of the tower is circular. the walls are at least eight feet in thickness. The entrances to this tower was so contrived, that there was access to it from every part of the walls; it contained three floors, and in each of them a fire-hearth: the interior forms an irregular octagon, about twenty feet in diameter from the angles, and about seventeen from side to side.

The wall that extended between the keep and the west or great tower, is in ruins. this tower, which is also greatly dilapidated, appears of more modern construction than the former, and is probably of the time of the Edwards. Its outward form is circular, but the interior is somewhat of an octangular figure, but very irregular; the general dimensions being thirty-three feet long, and twenty-five broad. In this appears to have been the great kitchen, the fire-place is still distinguishable, with a recess and loop-hole on each side. here was a small door-way, or sally-port, communicating with a sort of outer ballium, which run on the north-west side, and was inclosed by an outer wall. On this side also, and ranging between the west tower and north or Ladies' tower, were the State apartments. The Hall was a magnificent room of the time of Edward the First, as clearly appears from the style of the architecture of its remains, and particularly from the long, slender and narrow windows. This apartment was sixty-five feet long, and twenty eight feet, broad. some years ago it contained a single beam of oak 'without knot or knarle,' sixty-six feet long, and nearly two feet square throughout its whole length. On the north-west side is the great fire-place; and behind it, projecting into the outer ballium, a vast mass of solid stone-work, or kind of buttress, which, in its upper part, appears to have had some little apartment, or guard-chamber.

The Hall communicated towards the north with a kind of withdrawing or retiring room, about twenty-nine feet by seventeen and a half, in which appears to have been a window looking into the Hall.

**Hall.** From this second apartment, a passage led into what seems to have been the Great State Room, which was fifty-five feet and a half long, and twenty broad. At the upper end, or that towards the north, are two beautiful pointed arches, springing from a well-wrought octagon pillar in the middle of the apartment, and resting on corbels at the sides. here seems to have been two large windows, but the walls are so much broken, or closely mantled with ivy, that this cannot with certainty be affirmed. The architecture of this part of the building is of the time of Henry the Fifth or Sixth. At the north angle of this room is an opening leading into the north or Ladies' tower, which is so situated on the brow of a high and steep precipice, as to be the most defensible part of the Castle from the apartment within, which is a neat octagon arch, about fifteen feet in diameter, is a most beautiful view over the adjacent country. From the common appellation of this tower, there can be little doubt of its having been appropriated to the use of the fair sex. Beyond the State Room, in the north-east wall, is a square recess, and loop-hole, supposed to have been formed for the lodging and seat of the Warden.

Such is the general construction of Goodrich Castle; but almost every part has yielded to the iron tooth of age, and to the more speedy demolition of war. The ruins, however, are extremely grand; the massive towers are finely mantled with ivy; and even the great ditch is embellished with the luxuriant foliage of tall forest trees. from the adjoining grounds, the crumbling turrets have a very striking and interesting effect, as they have also when seen from the water, from which the view has been truly characterized as one of the grandest upon the Wye: the prospects from several parts of the Castle itself are extremely fine.

Whoever was the original founder of this Castle, "whether Godricus Dux, who witnessed King Canute's charters, or any chieftain prior to him," it is certain that the earliest authenticated record concerning it at present known, is of the date of 1204, when it was given by King John to William Strigul, Earl Marshall, to hold by the service of two knights fees: his son, Walter, Earl of Pembroke,

broke, died here in the year 1246.\* It was afterwards conveyed by a female to William de Valentia, Earl of Pembroke, whose third son, Aymer de Valance, became his heir, and was murdered in France in 1323. From him it passed to the Talbots, by the marriage of Elizabeth Comyn, daughter of Joan, his second sister, with Sir Richard, afterwards Lord Talbot, who procured the license from Edward the Third to have a prison here.† Thus Richard was a renowned soldier and statesman, and is thought to have expended a considerable part of the ransoms obtained from prisoners taken by him in the French wars, on the reparation and improvement of Goodrich Castle. His descendant, John Talbot, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, who was killed at the battle of Castillon, in the year 1453, was first buried at Rouen, in Normandy; and in the enumeration of his titles, on the monument there raised to his memory, he is styled, ‘ Lord of Goderich and Orchenfield.’ His successors were equally distinguished for bravery, and were frequently employed in offices of great trust: George,

\* Brooke’s Catalogue, p. 272.

† In the pedigree of the Earls of Shrewsbury, given in Jacob’s Peerage, it is asserted, that, temp. Edward the Third, “ Elizabeth Comyn,” (wife of Richard Talbot,) who is there said to be one of the sisters and co-heirs of John, Lord Comyn, “ was forcibly seized at Kennington, in Surrey, by Hugh le Despenser, Earl of Winchester, Hugh le Despenser, Junior, and others, and first carried to Woking, and thence to Parfrith, in that county, and so detained above a year, during which time she was, by menaces of death, constrained to pass her manor of Painswicke, in the county of Gloucester, to the said Earl, and the Castle of GODERICH to Hugh, the younger, to them and their heirs.” Mr. Grose, who seems to question the accuracy of this statement, has by so doing provoked the asperity of Mr. Bonner, \* though the latter, in defending Jacob, has fallen into the still more unpardonable error of making the Spensers exist at least thirty years after they were put to death! The date of this event is, indeed, a sufficient refutation of Jacob’s assertion, as it now stands, for it was not until after the time of the execution of the Spensers, the one at Bristol, the other at Hereford, that Edward the Third ascended the Throne.

George, the sixth Earl, had the custody of Mary, Queen of Scots, committed to his charge. By Gertrude, daughter of Manners, Earl of Rutland, his first wife, he had issue four sons, and three daughters. His second wife was Elizabeth, widow to Sir William Cavendish, whose son Henry married the Lady Grace, one of the Earl's daughters by his first wife. About this time, and probably on this occasion, the Earl procured license to "alien the Castle of Goodrich, the manor of Urchenfield, Goodrich, Flanesford, and Eccleswall, and the hundred of Wormelow, with their appurtenances, &c. to Henry Cavendish and Richard Croke, and to the heirs of the said Henry."\* That these places were really alienated, is improbable; as Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, was in possession of this Castle and Manor at the period of his death, in the fourteenth of James the First.† Elizabeth, his second daughter and co-heiress, conveyed them in marriage to Henry de Grey, Earl of Kent, in whose family they continued till the year 1740, when, on the death of Henry, Duke of Kent, they were sold to the late Admiral Griffin, whose son, George Griffin, Esq. is now owner."‡

In the Civil Wars between Charles the First and his Parliament, Goodrich Castle was alternately possessed by both parties. It was first seized by the Parliament, but afterwards fell into the possession of the Royalists, who sustained a siege of nearly six weeks against Colonel Birch. The Colonel began the siege on the twenty-second of June, 1646.§ On the twenty-fifth, the Commons voted eighty barrels of powder, out of the stores of Oxford, for carrying on the service against Goodrich Castle, and Ragland Castle.|| On the third of August, as appears from Whitelocke,¶ "Colonel Birch entered some of the works of Gotherich Castle, whereupon

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. II p. 448.

† Grose's Antiquities, Vol. II. p. 235.

‡ Perspective Itinerary, No. II. p. 12.

§ Whitelocke's Memorials, p. 218.

|| Commons' Journals.

¶ Memorials, p. 223.

upon the garrison hung out a white flag for parley, which Birch refused, and went on storming, and they all submitted to mercy. In the Castle, besides the Governor, Sir Henry Lugen, were fifty gentlemen, and 120 soldiers, with arms, ammunition, and provisions." On the twenty-fifth, the Parliament gave orders that the Countess of Kent should be informed, that there was a necessity for demolishing the Castle, and that 'on the demolishing thereof, satisfaction should be made to her. On the first of March following, they finally resolved that the Castle should be totally dis-garrisoned, and *slighted*: the breaches in the Ladies' Tower, which is the most effectually ruined, were said to have been chiefly occasioned by the battering of the cannon during the siege.

Within the Lordship of Goodrich, in a fertile vale about a quarter of a mile from the Castle on the south, are the remains of FLANESFORD PRIORY, founded by Richard Lord Talbot, in the year 1347, for Black Canons regular of the order of St. Augustine. Its revenues at the Dissolution, were estimated, according to Speed, at 15l. 8s. 9d. annually; and were granted in the thirteenth of Henry the Eighth, to George, fourth Earl of Shrewsbury. In one of the buildings, now used as a barn, and which seems to have been the refectory chapel, are some neat windows in the pointed style.

In GOODRICH Church, which stands at a little distance from the Priory on the west, is a curious ancient *Tomb*, without either inscription or arms, but traditionally reported to have been raised in memory of some one of the possessors of Goodrich Castle. The lower part is evidently of greater age than the upper, and is surrounded by clumsy pillars, with heavy torusses, the bases and capitals being in the same style: from these pillars spring pointed arches, sustaining a plain slab, of a date considerably posterior to the style of the columns. The *Chalice* used in administering the Sacrament at Goodrich, has a singular connexion with the events of the Civil War. The then Vicar, the Rev. Thomas Swift, \* was grandfather

\* Lord Clarendon observes, that "the King received no relief that was more seasonable or acceptable," than a sum which this clergyman had  
had

grandfather to Dean Swift, and was remarkably zealous in his endeavours to support the cause of Royalty. This drew upon him the determined enmity of the adverse party. In March, 1646, he was ejected from his living and in August his property was sequestered, and himself imprisoned. On his liberation, he still continued privately to pursue the duties of his profession; and travelling from house to house among his former parishioners, he celebrated the eucharist from this cup, which he carried about with him for the purpose. He died in 1658. the cup was afterwards transmitted to his grandson, Dean Swift, who, in 1726, dedicated it to the service of Goodrich Church for ever, as appears from an inscription engraven on the bottom of the Chalice, and which repeats some of the foregoing circumstances.

Between one and two miles eastward from Goodrich, are the *Iron Works* of BISHOP'S WOOD FURNACE, above which a dam has been formed by a small stream, that rises at a little distance, and whose waters, after supplying the business of the furnace, fall into the Wye below. Among the works are some powerful engines for stamping the ancient scoriæ, &c. to powder, and which is here re-manufactured to considerable advantage. Great quantities of iron ore, brought from Lancashire, are smelted at this forge.

From this point, the Wye makes a sweep of nearly four miles into Gloucestershire; but the space inclosed between the limits of Herefordshire and the river, is considered as a part of Monmouthshire. Within this area is the little *Church* of WELSH BICKNOR, and the old mansion, and venerable woods, of COURTFIELD, the

had collected by mortgaging his estate, and every other means in his power, and with which he repaired to Ragland Castle, whither His Majesty had retired after the Battle of Naseby, "where his distress was very great, and his resources entirely cut off. The Governor, with whom he was acquainted, asked his errand. 'I am come,' said he 'to give His Majesty my coat.' As he took it off, the Governor pleasantly replied, 'It is of little worth.'—'Why then,' said Swift, 'take my waistcoat.' and this being ripped, was found to contain 300 broad pieces of gold."



the place, according to a current tradition, where Henry the Fifth was sent from Monmouth, the scene of his birth, to be nursed.\*

About one mile from Courtfield to the west, rises the commanding eminence called COPPED-WOOD HILL, from which the prospects are extremely fine, and of considerable extent. Here, from one point, at a little building, formerly the residence of a Warrener, may be seen parts of the eight counties of Hereford, Monmouth, Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor. The diversity of the scenery makes the views from this hill uncommonly interesting.

The prospects on the Wye, between RAVEN'S CLIFF and Symond's Yate, are exceedingly striking; they gradually increase in interest as the river is descended, and unfold an immense mass of rocks of great height, and nearly a mile in extent. In some places the rocks are crested or shrouded by the deep foliage of primæval oaks; in others the cliffs assume the sullen port of a ruined and mighty Castle, far beyond the possibility of human patience or exertion to construct; and to which the implacable genius of Chivalry seems to have retired, to keep the deep silence of despair in the midst of congenial gloom. The shore on the opposite side is more level; and from this cause the bold effect of the rocks is greatly increased.

At SYMOND'S YATE, or *Rock*, the Wye veers suddenly to the north, and then flowing in a semicircular course, again turns off to the south, till it reaches the New Weir, and once more changes its direction to the south-west. The most narrow part of this peninsula is scarcely half a mile in extent, though the space infolded by the river is between six and seven miles. The bird's eye view from this eminence is extremely pleasing: the interest is considerably increased by an ancient *Encampment* that crowns the summit,

\* The *Cradle* in which the Royal infant was rocked, is yet preserved as an invaluable relique. It became an honorary perquisite to one of the rockers, who was an ancestor of the late Rev. Mr. Ball, of Newland, in Gloucestershire: on his death it was given to — Whitehead, Esq. of French Hay, near Bristol. A view of it has been engraved in Bonner's Itinerary.

admit, and by the contiguity of the iron-works at the New Weir. The tremendous sounds of the vast hammers happily coincide with the character of the scenery: where Nature is so grand in her design, the effect is much heightened by whatever awakens correspondent sensations in the mind.

The *Cascade* of the NEW WEIR, which intersects the channel of the river between Symond's Yate and the Doward Hills, has been selected by tourists as one of the most beautiful and majestic scenes upon the Wye, as it gains superior advantage from accidental accompaniments. In Whateley's *Observations on Modern Gardening*, one of the most scientific, as well as first published essays on that subject, is a very animated description of this spot; and which, as the scenery and adjuncts are still the same, is here transcribed. "A scene at the New Weir on the Wye, which in itself is truly great and awful, so far from being disturbed, becomes more interesting and important, by the business to which it is destined. It is a chasm between two high ranges of hill, that rise almost perpendicularly from the water the rocks on the sides are mostly heavy masses, and their colour is generally brown; but here and there a pale craggy shape starts up to a vast height above the rest, unconnected, broken, and bare: large trees frequently force out their way amongst them; and many of them stand far back in the covert, where their natural dusky hue is deepened by the shadow that overhangs them. The river, too, as it retires, loses itself in woods, which close immediately above, then rise thick and high, and darken the water. In the midst of all this gloom is an *Iron Forge*, covered with a black cloud of smoke, and surrounded with half-burned ore, with coal and with cinders: the fuel for it is brought down a path, worn into steps narrow and steep, and winding among precipices; and near it is an open space of barren moor, about which are scattered the huts of the workmen. It stands close to the cascade of the Weir, where the agitation of the current is increased by large fragments of rocks, which have been swept down by floods from the banks, or shattered by tempests from the brow; and the sullen sound, at stated intervals, of the strokes from the great hammer in the forge, deadens the

roar of the water-fall.\* Just below it, while the rapidity of the stream still continues, a ferry is carried across it; and lower down the fishermen use little round boats, called truckles, (coracles,) the remains, perhaps, of the ancient British navigation, which the least motion will upset, and the slightest touch may destroy. All the employments of the people seem to require either exertion or caution; and the ideas of force, or of danger, which attend them, give to the scene an animation unknown to the solitary, though perfectly compatible with the wildest romantic situation.”†

The eminence called the GREAT DOWARD rises to the north-west of Symond's Yat, bearing on its brow the remains of an ancient *Encampment*, called KING ARTHUR'S HALL, from which the ground gently declines to the river. At a short distance to the west, is the LITTLE DOWARD HILL; and on the summit of this also, are vestiges of an ancient *Camp*. hereabouts, according to Gibson's Camden, broad arrow-heads have been found; and in a place which seemed to have been arched over, an almost entire human skeleton was discovered, “whose joints were pretended to be twice the length of those of the present race.”‡ Near the short reach called *St. Martin's Pool*, said to be the deepest spot on the Wye, that river finally quits this county, and enters Monmouthshire.

PEMBRIDGE CASTLE, in the parish of Welsh-Newton, is mentioned as early as the seventh of Henry the Third, 'when William Lord Cantilupe was its Governor. In Henry the Seventh's reign, it was held by the Knights Hospitallers of Dymore; and afterwards by Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby. In the time of Elizabeth, after passing through the hands of — Baynham, who was attainted of treason, it was purchased by

\* — The heavy wheel moves round,  
And ever and again lets fall the loud  
And awful hammer, that confounds the ear,  
And makes the firm earth shake.

*Dr Hurd's Village Curate.*

† Observations, &c. p. 116.

‡ Gough's Additions to the Britannia, Vol. II. p. 448.

by David Baker, who sold it to Sir Walter Pye, Sen. The last Sir Walter Pye again disposed of this estate to George Kemble, Gent. who repaired the ruins with timber, and made it habitable, as it was in 1675.\* The Castle is now wholly demolished, together with an adjoining Chapel; and the Park has been ploughed up, and cultivated.

A considerable district in the southern part of Herefordshire, was formerly comprehended by the name of ARCENFELDE, IRCHINFELD, or URCHENFIELD: the former is the appellation which it bears in the Domesday Book; the latter are variations of a later period. "*Herchinfeld*," says Leland, "is a great Lordship longing to the Erle of Shrewsbury, and lieth betwixt Monemouth and Herford, about 2 miles from each of them: on the one side *alluitur Vaga flu*. Erchenfeld is very full of inclosures, and of corne and woode."† This tract was ravaged by the Danes in the year 905, and Camalac, a British Bishop, made prisoner.‡

"The King," says the Domesday Book, "has in *Arcenfelde*, 100 men, *mines* four, who hold 73 *carucæ* with their men, and pay for custom 41 pints of honey, and 20s. in lieu of the sheep which they used to furnish, and 10s. smoke money, (*furnagium*,) and no other toll or custom, except serving in the King's army, if required. If a freeman dies there, the King has his horse and arms; and if a villan, one ox. King Gryffin and Blein ravaged this tract in the Confessor's reign, and therefore the state of it at that time cannot be ascertained."§

The ninety-six men here spoken of, observes Mr. Gough, were considered by Mr. Blount, "to be *liberi homines*, yet such as held

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in

\* Gough's Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 461.

† Itin. Vol. V. p. 9.

‡ Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 442. "Bishop Godwin supposes this was *Crimleauc*, or *Cumelegsac*, Bishop of Llandaff, or, as Matthew of Westminster says, Bishop of the East Saxons, among whom he was taken, and afterwards ransomed by King Edward the Elder for 40l. *Ibid*.

§ Domesday Book, fol. 181.

in gavel-kind ; and the seventy-three ploughs with their men, he looked upon as their *villani* ; and that both held all their lands in this territory in gavel-kind, which are so continued to this day. They were free from payments and customs anciently imposed upon the rest of the nation, because as a special remark it is said, *nec dant geldam aut aliam consuetudinem* ; unless it be to march in the King's army when they are commanded ; yet paying, as the rest of Wales did, their *talw-fwch*, and *talw-furn* ; this last being the *furnagium* above-mentioned, a payment for fire, and elsewhere called smoke-silver ; which is still paid to the lords of manors in Wales, and in some parts of England, to the minister of the parish. They had the chief honor in the army given them ; they led the van to fight, and brought up the rear in its retreat. They have within their circuits, a liberty to arrest for any sum whatsoever ; and whoever purchases lands there, may bequeath them to whom he pleases, as it was adjudged *inter* Martinstow and Gloditha, twentieth of Edward the First.

“ The wife here hath the moiety of her husband's lands for her dower ; nor is here any forfeiture of lands for felony : besides, the King's writ runs not here, as it was adjudged in the same King Edward's time, and thus recorded : ‘ *Homines Hundredi de Irchenfeld a tempore quo non extat memoria placitaverunt et placita sua habuerunt de omnibus placitis quæ ad coronam pertinent sive de appealis sive de transgressionibus contra pacem regis solummodo coram vicecomite Hereford, et non coram aliquibus aliis justiciariis.*’ This was pleaded in bar to an appeal made in derogation of the privilege of Irchenfeld before the Justices itinerant ; but the judgment was, ‘ *Ideo appellum remittitur in Hundredo prædicto.*’ In this record it is called *Hundredum*, but in several other pleadings, *Libertas*, de Irchenfeld : and in case where any of the inhabitants were impleaded out of the liberty, the *Ballivus libertatis de Irchenfeld* came, and claimed those immunities, which were always allowed. They have also a formal way of judicature of their own, after the British fashion : the Steward, with his officers belonging to the court, being seated, there are certain chiefs among them, who hold their lands of the lord by suit and doom, in the court of  
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this his liberty, and are therefore called *doomsmen*; that is, men of judgment, or such who are to judge of matters in controversy: accordingly, in the *Quo Warranto* roll of Irchenfeld, twentieth of Edward the First, it is recorded, that "*Jurati hundredorum de Irchenfeld, Webbeter, et Greytre, dicunt quod Botholin qui tenuit villam de Comboglin solebat facere sectam ad hundred predict. et esse unus Doomsman de eodem hundredo,*" &c. And whereas the King had three Churches within this liberty, the Priests of those Churches were bound to carry the King's messages into Wales; and each of them were to say two masses every week for the King, as appears by the Domesday Book.

"The learned author before cited, affirms also, that he has seen a record, wherein these inhabitants of Irchenfeld are said to be left, as it were, to their own liberty, and to be *extra comstatum*; that is, not bound up to any strictness by the country laws. Lastly, the tenure whereby they hold their lands is gavel-kind, which is a partition among all female children: with this difference only to the eldest son, that certain principals, as they call them, pass to him as heir-looms, and are not subject to partition; such as the best beast, the best bed and furniture, the best table, &c. which tenure, and those other enumerated customs, they do for the most part still retain, as derived to them from great antiquity, even before the Norman Conquest; for they are recorded to have been *Consuetudines Walensium tempore regis Edwardi Confessoris.*"\*

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\* Gough's Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 447. "These customs were as follow: if any stole from the Welsh, a man, or woman, horse, ox, or cow, he was, on conviction, to restore the thing stolen, and forfeit 20s. but for a sheep, or bundle of *manpuli*, (i. e. cloaths,) 2s. Whoever killed one of the King's men, and fled, was to forfeit to the King 20s. for the murder, and 10s. forfeit—if the man belonged to a thane, the forfeit to the man's master was to be 10s. If one Welshman killed another, the relations of the deceased were to meet, and plunder the goods of the murderer and his relations, and burn their houses, and the body was buried about noon of the following day: the King was to have one third of the booty, and all the rest was to remain to them. Who-

ever

It appears also, from Blount, that it was presented, that, contrary to their liberty, their men were by the chiefs carried to the Castle of Hereford,\* when they had a prison and gate-house of their own for the punishment of offenders at Goodrich Castle, "which is as the *Caput Baronie*, or *Libertatis*." This is corroborated by Leland, who observes, that "they carry their prisoners to *Castel Godcryce*, somewhat out of Erchynfyld, but longing to the Erle of Shrewsbyri." This region, or "Liberty of *Urchenfeld*, continued in the Crown till Edward the Third's time, when that King, in the twentieth year of his reign, granted to Richard Talbot, and Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs, in exchange for the manor of Hertingfordbury, in the county of Hertford, the land and hundred of Irchenfeld, and the manor of Wormlow, and the manor and services of Reynold Grey for the manor of Wilton, and of Thomas Ganworth for the manor of Kinger."†

The district of Irchinfield frequently occurs in Welsh writings by the name of *Urging*, and is stated to have anciently been governed by independent Sovereigns. It seems to have been more extensive than is recorded by Leland, and probably included *Ariconum* as its capital. At present there is no hundred of the name of

ever was charged with firing a house, and could not clear himself by forty compurgators, was to forfeit 20s. to the King. Whoever was convicted of concealing one pint of honey in the custom, was to forfeit five pints for one, if his lands yielded so much. If the Sheriff called them to the shire mot, six or seven of the best were to go with him, and whoever refused to go on summons, was to forfeit 2s. or an ox to the King, *et qui de hundred remanet* was to pay as much: and the like fine for disobeying the Sheriff's precept to go with him into Wales; for if the Sheriff did not go, no one else need." *Ibid.*

\* "*Inter presentationes hundredi de Wormelow, Juratores presentant quod vicecomites capere faciunt homines de hundredo predicto per indumenta et ducere eos ad castrum Herefordie, et tenere eos donec finem fecerunt contra libertatem istius hundredi.*

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 448.

of Irchinfield; but the deanery so called, includes "the whole hundred of Wormelow, and one parish in Webtree."\*

ST. WEONARDS derives its name from the dedication of its *Church* to the British Saint of that name, whose figure, represented as an old man sustaining a book and an ox, was formerly in the north chancel window. Several of the ancient family of the *Minors*, who came in with the Conqueror, and were seated at TRIAGO, in this parish, lie buried here.

On a commanding eminence between Michael-Church and Pengethley, is an ancient square CAMP, called GEER COPP; and hardly two miles distant, on a hill to the north-east, is another, but smaller CAMP, called CARADOC, or corruptly, CRADOCK, which is also the name of a seat here belonging to the Digby family. The Manor-House is a venerable building, pleasantly situated on the bank rising above the Wye. the scenery in this neighbourhood is exceedingly picturesque.

LLANFROTHER 'was the site of an ancient COLLEGE, recorded to have been founded, with eleven others, early in the sixth century, by St. Dubricius, Archbishop of Caerleon, and King of Urging. "In the fore-mentioned region of Urchenfield," observes Taylor in his History of Gavel-kind, "is a certain parish called *Hén llan*, commonly HENTLAND, which in the English tongue signifies the *Old Church*; and in certain pastures belonging to a farm in that parish, there is a place which to this day is called *Llan-frawtwr*, which is as much as to say, the Church or Convent of the Brethren; the site whereof was upon a small hill, not half a mile distant from Hentland; the ruins of which place, with its old foundations, are yet to be seen, and was a place dedicated to holy use. there it was that the great College for one hundred students was founded by St. Dubricius, the Prince of this region, (to repel the progress of Pelagian heresie,) who succeeded his grand-father Pibanus, King of Ergin, the old name of Urchenfield, and in the days of King Arthur was made Archbishop of Caerleon."† The

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foundations

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 448.

† Hist of Gavel-kind, p. 90. Edit. 1663.



foundations of extensive buildings may still be traced here at particular seasons, on the summit of an eminence rising from the western bank of the Wye; but all the materials that were above ground, have been used in the construction of walls, &c. even part of the foundations themselves, have been dug up within memory for the same purpose. Some adjacent fields bear the names of the *North-Town Field*, and *Behind-Town*.

The land-holders, or *brinkers*, on this part of the river, within the liberty of Irchenfield, possess the right of fishing in the 'FREE WATER,' as that part of the Wye is called which lies between Holm-Lacey and Strangford, "provided they expose the salmon, and other fish that are caught, for sale, upon a board fixed up in the Hereford turnpike-road, between Llan-frother and Horewithy." About forty years ago, this custom was enforced by the manor-court of Wormelow, and the fishermen ordered to carry their fish to this board, that, "any woman big with child, or poor person, might have as small a piece as a pound." This order was probably made merely to try the right: the board on which the fish were exposed, has been taken down about ten or twelve years.\*

HAREWOOD is an ancient residence of the Hoskyns family, and now the seat of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, Bart. The Mansion is a plain structure, but has been much improved, and partly rebuilt, by the present owner. The Park is well wooded, and contains some very fine timber. In this precinct, some authors have placed the scene of the tragical death of Earl Ethelwold, supposed to have been assassinated by King Edgar, for his conduct with respect to the fair Elfrida.†

On the summit of ACONBURY HILL, a bold and extensive eminence, partly covered with young wood, and commanding a delightful view over the adjacent country, are the traces of a large CAMP, of a square form: the rampart on the east side is very conspicuous. This was probably a summer camp of the Romans.

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\* Bonner's Perspective Itinerary, p. 19, 20.

† See under Tavistock, Vol. IV. p. 217.

At the neighbouring village of ACONBURY, was a NUNNERY of the order of St. Augustine, founded and endowed in the time of King John, by Margery, wife of Walter de Lacey. The *Cliffords*, one of whom appears to have been buried here, were considerable benefactors to this house; its revenues, at the time of the Dissolution, were estimated at 75l. 7s. 5d $\frac{1}{4}$ . annually.\* This estate is now the property of Guy's Hospital, it having been purchased, with Wilton Castle, and other estates in the county belonging to the Lords Chandos, some time in the last century. The Chandos family obtained it by the marriage of Sir John Brydges, Knt. and Bart. with the heiress of the *Pearles* of Dewsall, into which family also it had been conveyed by an heiress, descended from Hugh Parry, who had purchased it from Henry the Eighth. The remains of the Nunnery have been fitted up as a farm-house. Some stone coffins preserved in the Nun's Chapel, have been engraved for Gough's Sepulchral Monuments.

MEEND PARK, the seat of Sir Richard Symmonds, Bart. ranges under the west side of Saddlebow Hill. The mansion is a large plain structure of brick; the grounds afford some rich and well-wooded scenery.

At KILPECK was an ancient CASTLE and CELL of BENEDICTINES. the former was the residence of the noble family of *Kilpec*, who obtained it by marriage with an heiress of the *Waleranes*, who lived here in the time of Edward the First. "The Castle of Kilpek, by Herchenfeld," says Leland, "now longeth to the Erle of Ormond; sum ruines of the walls yet stand. The Priory stood from the Castle a quarter of a mile." This was subordinate to St. Peter's at Gloucester, to which the church had been given by Hugh Fitz-william, an ancestor of the Lords Kilpec; "it was suppressed in Thomas Spofford, Bishop of Hereford's time, and clerly united to Gloucester."†

At KENTCHURCH, bordering on Monmouthshire, is the pleasant seat of John Scudamore, Esq. who has represented the  
city

\* Harl MSS. No. 6729, fol.

† Lel. Itin. Vol. VIII. See also Vol. V.

city of Hereford in six or seven successive Parliaments. The Park is between three and four miles in circumference, and contains some fine timber. In Leland's Itinerary, this place is called *Penckirke*; and affirmed to be the seat of the eldest House of the *Escudamours*.

At EWIAS HAROLD, on an eminence bounded on the north-east by a small stream, which falls into the Dore about a mile below, was an ancient CASTLE, now demolished, formerly the head of the Lordship of Ewias Harold, which Leland describes as "a mile in breadth wher it is narrowest, and most in length two miles: it hath goode corne, grasse, and woode."\* This Castle was founded previously to the Conquest; and, according to the Domesday Book, was "re-fortified by Alured de Marleburg." Dugdale says, that this fortress was built by William Fitz-Osborne, Earl of Hereford, after the Conquest; but this affirmation the above extract proves to be inaccurate. The statement of Leland is more likely to be the truth: he observes, "the fame goeth, that Kyng Harold had a bastard namyed Harold, and of this Harold part of Ewis was named *Ewis Harold*.—The fame is, that the Castell of Map-Herald was buildid of Harold afore he was Kyng; and when he overcam the *Walsche* men, Harold gave this Castle to his bastard. Great parte of Mapherald Castle is yet standinge, and a Chapelle of Seint Nicholas in it. Ther was sumetyme a Parke by the Castell: the Castle stondythe on a mene hill."†

Harold, Lord of Ewias, according to Mr. Gough, was the son of Ralph, Earl of Hereford, and father of Robert, founder of Dore Abbey; but Leland says, that the latter was the son of Harold's bastard. "This Robert had issue, Robert The second Robert had one dowghtar, caulld Sibille Ewias, married to Sir Robert Tregoz, a Norman. Robert Tregoz had issue, John Tregoz: this John Tregoz married Lord William Cantelupe's Dowghtar caulld Julia, sistar to Thomas Cantelupe, Bishop of Herforde, Chancellor to Henry the Thirde. John Tregoz had by Julia, 2 dowghtars. Clarence, married to John, Lord de la Ware; and Sibille, married to Guliam de Grandeson.—Tregoz and Graunson were

\* Itin. Vol. VIII. p. 83.

† Ibid. p. 84.

were the last that were men of any greate estimation that dwellyd in Mapheralt. Johan Beauchamp, Lady of Bergeveny, bowght of Dela War and Graunson, Mapeherault Castell. Ther is a village by the Castle caullyd *Ewis Haralde*, in the whiche was a PRIORIE, or cell of Blake Monks, translatyd from *Dulesse* (*Dewlas*) village, a myle and upper on the broke. Dules village longed to Harold. *Filius Harald* foundyd this at Dules: Robertus Tregoz translated it from Dules to Mapheralt: it was a cell to Gloucester.\* The revenues of this establishment having greatly decreased, the monks were finally removed to Gloucester in 1338, and their possessions united to those of St. Peter's Abbey, to which the Church here had been given early in the twelfth century.

DORE ABBEY, so named from its situation on the river Dore, was founded for Cistercian Monks, by Robert, Lord of Ewias, about the end of the reign of Henry the First, or beginning of that of King Stephen; in whose third year, various gifts were made to this Abbey, by Harold de Ewias, father of the above Robert. Besides the valuable endowments made by the founder, considerable benefactions were bestowed by other eminent personages; and King John increased the possessions of the monks, by a grant of all the land between the Dore river and a rivulet called Trivelbrook. His successor, Henry the Third, was also esteemed a benefactor, from having confirmed in his seventeenth year, all the grants, charters, and donations, that had been made to the Abbey from the period of its foundation. The monks having thus acquired extensive possessions, and become very affluent, began the erection of a magnificent Church; but the expenses having exceeded their estimate, they procured an hortatory letter from Peter de Aqua-Blanca, Bishop of Hereford, in which an abatement of twenty days penance was promised to all those who would contribute towards the erection of the said structure. This indulgence proved effectual; and the Church was completed in a very elegant manner in the Pointed style. The Abbey continued to flourish from this period till the Dissolution of the lesser Monasteries,

\* Itin. Vol. VIII. p. 84.

monasteries, its inmates having appropriated to themselves many of the *bona spiritualia* of the neighbouring parishes. Their mode of effecting this, says Bishop Kennet, 'was to prevail upon the incumbent to receive or embrace their order, and to bring his church with him, allowing him, in return, a pension for life, provided that he suffered them to apply the fruits of his benefice to their own use.' At the time of its suppression, the revenues of this Abbey were, according to Dugdale, estimated at the annual value of 101l. 5s. 2d. but Speed records the yearly income at 118l. 0s. 2d.'

Several of the Abbots of Dore became highly celebrated from their talents both in religious and civil employments. Among the most eminent characters of his age, was Abbot *Adams*, who, about the thirteenth century, was educated in this monastery. In his studies, he intermingled the lighter pursuits of life with the more serious; but never permitted the hours which he dedicated to poetry, music, and philosophy, to interfere with those devoted to the exercises of piety. His regularity in the performance of religious duties, and general proficiency in the sciences, occasioned his fellow monks to make choice of him as their superior. The wisdom of this choice was evinced by his conduct in a controversy which he entered into, soon after his election, with *Silvester Girald*, a person of considerable learning and eminence among the secular clergy, and in which he vindicated the Cistercian Monks from the charges of ignorance, avarice, and concupiscence, which had been brought against them by *Girald*.

Another instance of the extreme discipline, piety, and learning, which the *Bernardines*, or reformed Cistercians, cultivated, amidst a general dissoluteness of manners, in religious houses, may be found in the person of *Caducan*, or *Cadwgan*, who was descended from a very ancient British race, and, for his attainments in the sciences, and knowledge in divinity, was promoted, by King John, to the See of Bangor, in the year 1215. Having enjoyed this dignity nearly twenty-one years, he resigned it, by permission of Pope Gregory, in 1236, and laying aside his pontifical robes, assumed the humble garb of a monk in this Abbey, and spent the

the remainder of his days in meditation and prayer : here, also, he composed a book of Homilies. Another celebrated Abbot of this house was *Richard Stradel*, who was likewise the author of some excellent Homilies on the Paternoster, and Evangelists. The estimation which Dore Abbey had very early attained, may be further illustrated by the circumstance of Edward the First, on his accession to the Throne, issuing a commission to the then Abbot, by which he empowered him to receive the oath of allegiance in his name, from Llewellyn, the son of Griffin, Prince of Wales. In the eighth of Edward the Third, the Abbot of Dore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Sir William de Clayton, Knt. were constituted by that Monarch, as special ministers to treat with Philip, the French King ; and in the succeeding year, the same Abbot was employed on a similar negotiation, with the Bishop of Norwich.

In the thirty-first of Henry the Eighth, the site and demesne lands of Dore Abbey were granted to John Scudamore, Esq. of Holm-Lacey ; who afterwards purchased the tithes of the parish, which having been originally granted to the Earl of Devonshire, had passed through various hands. The Chapter-House, Cloisters, and other buildings belonging to the Abbey, were pulled down, and the materials sold, soon after its suppression, together with part of the *Church* ; but enough of the latter is still left, to show that it was built in the Cathedral form, and that its architecture was very elegant. John, Viscount Scudamore, obtained a license from Charles the First, to rebuild this fabric, and to endow it with all the appropriated tithes of Dore Parish : it was not, however, entirely rebuilt, but underwent considerable repairs, and in March, 1634, was re-consecrated by Theophilus Field, Bishop of St. David's.

This edifice consists of a nave, chancel, and transept, with a well-proportioned and massive tower : the transept was completely new roofed by Lord Scudamore, whose arms are finely carved on the *Screen* which divides the chancel from the nave, together with those of England, and of the See of Hereford. The chancel is spacious, and has a magnificent appearance ; its length is eighty-four

four feet ; its breadth, thirty-two ; and its height, forty-six. The Communion Table is a remarkable slab, twelve feet long, and four broad, resting upon three elegant pillars : the altar-piece is equally singular ; it displays a carved representation, in wood, of the heart, hands, and feet, of Our Saviour, pierced and bleeding

Above the altar are three beautiful windows, filled with painted glass : in the centre window Jesus is depicted ascending into Heaven ; above him is Moses, and St. John Baptist ; and beneath the eleven Apostles. In the other windows, are full-length figures of the Evangelists, and of St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. James, and St. John, with appropriate legends. On the opposite side of the chancel, are two handsome monuments in memory of the REV. WILLIAM WATTS, and the REV. DIGBY COTES, both of whom were Rectors of this parish. the former died in 1711 ; the latter in 1793. Behind the altar is a kind of Chapel, called a double Cloister, the roof of which is supported by well-proportioned pillars, of good workmanship : here, beneath an arch, is a mutilated figure, carved in free-stone, said to be the effigies of ROBERT DE EWIAS, founder of this Abbey, who is recorded to have been buried here, together with Robert, his son, and several others of his family. Another broken and defaced statue, in the north aisle, is said to represent SIR ROGER DE CLIFFORD, the younger, who was also buried here ; as were Sir Alan Plokenet, and William Grandison, Lords of Ewias Harold, and various other illustrious persons. In the Church-Yard, under an ancient yew-tree, is a plain tomb, erected in commemoration of the REV. MATTHEW GIBSON, who was Rector here, and wrote the View of the ancient and present state of the Churches of Dore, Holm-Lacey, and Hempstead. he died in 1740.

The Abbey lands are now the property of the Duke of Norfolk, who obtained them by his marriage with the heiress of the Lords Scudamore. “ The broke of Dour,” says Leland, “ runneth by the Abbey of Dour ; and there it breakethe a litle above the Monasterie into 2 armes, whereof the lesse arme rennethe thorowghe the Monastery, the bygger arme levith the Abbay a bowe-shot of on the right hound or banke ; the confluence is againe hard bynethe.

bynethe the Abbey.\* The parish of Dore contains about 5000 acres, about one fifth of which is planted. The buildings are chiefly farm-houses and cottages, built of timber, with mud walls, and lying scattered on the hills, and in the valleys; the land being extremely diversified and broken. The roads in this district, and, indeed, in all this part of the country, are excessively rugged, and bad.

In a valley, between three and four miles to the west of Dore and Ewias Harold, flows the river Honddy, near the junction of which with the Munnow River, on the borders of Monmouthshire, is *ALTYRINYS*, an ancient mansion belonging to, and long the seat of the *Cecils*, from whom descended the Lords Burghley. The river Honddy nearly surrounds the house. both streams are clear and rapid, and the scenery on their bank is very picturesque. This estate became the property of the *Cecils* by the marriage of Robert Sitsilt with an heiress about the year 1091.

On the brow of a precipice of the black mountains, rising above *TREWYN HOUSE*, the pleasant seat of — Rosier, Esq. are vestiges of an ancient *ENCAMPMENT*, of an oblong rectangular form, the area of which measures 485 feet by 240 feet. Beyond the bank, on one side, is a more extensive entrenchment, of a semi-circular figure, defended by a double ditch and rampart. The Rev. W. Coxe, who visited this district from Monmouthshire, supposes the former to be of Roman origin, and the latter to have been annexed by the Britons or Saxons. The situation, he remarks, was excellent “as well for an exploratory camp, as for the defence of the road which ran near the foot of the eminence.†”

*LONGTOWN*, a secluded village, situated near the junction of the upper branches of the Munnow, is marked as the Roman *Blestium*, in Taylor's Map of Herefordshire, most probably from mistaking the place meant by Camden, who fixes that station (though erroneously) at *Castle Hên*, or *Old Castle*, an ancient Camp, on an eminence between two and three miles to the south, and which is actually in Monmouthshire, though almost insulated

by

\* Itin Vol. VIII p. 83.

† Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, Vol I p 222.



by the lands of this county. At Longtown are some inconsiderable remains of a CASTLE; and to the eastward is an eminence, called *Money-Farthing Hill*; probably from coins found there.

Among the hills, near the rise of one of the branches of the Munnow, and between one and two miles from the borders of Brecknock, was CRASSWELL PRIORY, a small house, subordinate to the order of Grandmount, in Normandy. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and contained a Prior and ten Monks, who were settled here about the end of the reign of King John, or beginning of that of Henry the Third. On its suppression, its revenues, amounting to 40s. annually, were granted, by Edward the Fourth, to God's House, now Christ's College, Cambridge.\*

On a conical eminence above Vowchurch, in the GOLDEN VALE, so called by corruption from *Dyffryn Dwr*, is a small square CAMP, commanding an extensive prospect to the south-east.

In the same vale, about three miles to the north-west, is the site of the demolished CASTLE of SNODHILL, which Leland describes as 'somewhat in ruine,' even in his days. The earliest notice of this Castle occurs in a record of the time of Henry the Third; 'in the thirtieth of Edward the First, it belonged to Robert, Lord Chandos, who was fourth in descent from one of both his names, who came in with the Conqueror. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, in the time of Henry the Sixth, held it in right of his wife Anne, who, after his death at Barnet Field, settled it on King Henry the Seventh. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Robert Dudley, Kut. of the Garter."† Leland mentions a Free Chapel and Park here.

At DORSTON, on the same chain of hills as Snodhill, about one mile and a half to the north-west, was another CASTLE, now also demolished; the origin of which does not appear to be recorded.

The view eastward from Dorston is impeded by a range of bold eminences, extending about ten or twelve miles in a north-east direction, and known by the appellations of KING ARTHUR'S HILL, STOCKLEY HILL, and MAWBACH HILL. On the summit of the

\* Tanner's Notitia.

† Gough's Additions to Camden, from Dugdale, and Blount's MSS.

the former is an interesting memorial of British customs, called **KING ARTHUR'S TABLET**, a large and peculiar kind of **CROMLECH**, the incumbent stone of which, now broken nearly in the middle, measures eighteen feet in length, and from seven to ten feet broad; its thickness is about two feet; its form more closely resembles an ellipsis, than any other determinate figure. The number of upright stones that originally supported this slab, appears to have been eleven; but several of them are now fallen; and the top stone has a considerable depression at one end, a portion of it has also separated, and the fallen mass fills up some part of the vacuity beneath. Other smaller stones are scattered near the **Cromlech**; and on one side is a small mound or embankment of earth and stones, on the other the ground seems to have been hollowed into a somewhat circular form.

**MOCCAS**, or **MOCCAS-COURT**, the seat of Sir George Amyand Cornewall, Bart. one of the representatives for Herefordshire, is delightfully situated on the southern bank of the Wye: it came into the possession of the present Baronet from his marriage with the daughter and heiress of the late Velters Cornewall, Esq. who represented this county in seven successive parliaments. The *Cornewalls* were a younger branch of the *Cornewalls* of Burford, in Shropshire, and with them trace their descent to Richard, second son of King John, Earl of Poitiers and Cornwall, and King of the Romans. They obtained this estate, together with the neighbouring Castle of Bredwardine, and other lands, by marriage with the heiress of the *Vaughans* of Bredwardine; of whom Sir Roger Vaughan, Knt. was son in law to the renowned Silurian, David Gam, and, together with him, and their kinsman, Walter Llwyd of Brecknock, greatly contributed to the success of Henry the Fifth at the battle of Agincourt. Though all were mortally wounded in a desperate charge made to relieve the King from the danger of being killed, or taken prisoner, they were knighted by the sorrowing Monarch upon the field, where they soon after died.\* The

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present

\* The well known answer of David Gam to the inquiry made by the King as to the numbers of the enemy, that is, "Enough to be killed, •

present mansion is a handsome modern building, occupying an easy ascent from the river, which, "clear and artless, pouring through the plain," gives interest and animation to the scenery. The Park, which ranges to the south-west, is finely wooded, and includes a large portion of the neighbouring eminence: many of the views from the grounds are extremely fine.

**BREDWARDINE CASTLE**, which stood on the banks of the Wye, about two miles above Moccas, has long been destroyed; the ruins are said to have furnished great part of the materials used in the erection of the ancient residence of the Cornwalls at Moccas. From the imperfect traces that remain, it appears to have been a strong and massive fortress. This place gave name to the family of the famous *Thomas Bredwardine*, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1349, surnamed the Profound Doctor, for his great learning. his progenitors removed from this spot into Sussex, between one and two centuries before he was born.

On a bold eminence, rising from the banks of the Wye, near its entrance into the county from Brecknockshire, stand the picturesque remains of **CLIFFORD CASTLE**, for nearly two centuries the baronial residence of the Lords de Clifford, who obtained it by the marriage of Walter Fitz-Richard, (a descendant of Richard, second Duke of Normandy,) whose father accompanied the Conqueror into England, with Margaret, daughter and heiress of Ralph de Cundy.\* It was built by William Fitz-Osborne, Earl of Hereford; but at the time of the Domesday Survey, was held by Radulphus de Totenie. The ruins are chiefly massive fragments

killed, enough to be taken, and enough to run away," was probably the exciting cause of the spirited apostrophe which Drayton has put into the mouth of this hero, in his 'Battle of Agincourt.'

- 'Not dare,' quoth Gam, and angrily doth frown:—
- 'I tell thee, Woodhouse, some in presence stand,
- 'Dare prop the sun if it were falling down:
- 'Dare grasp the bolt from thunder in his hand,
- 'And through a cannon leap into a town."

\* See some particulars of the Cliffords under Ugbrooke, Vol. IV. p 100.

ments of wall, overhanging the steep near the river side. The celebrated ROSAMOND DE CLIFFORD, the fair but unfortunate mistress of Henry the Second, is said to have been born in this Castle. Here, in the time of Henry the First, Simon Fitz-Walter founded a CELL of Cluniac Monks, subordinate to the Priory at Lewes, in Sussex : its revenues at the period of the Dissolution, were estimated, according to Speed, at 65l. 11s. 11d. annually.

At WINFRETON was an HERMITAGE, founded by a monk of Wormeley Priory, about the time of Edward the First, on a small Island formed by the overflowing of the Wye. The name, *Chapel Close*, is the only memorial of this retreat, the buildings having been destroyed.\*

At ERDESLEY, like so many other places in this county, is the site of a demolished CASTLE, or rather, as recorded in the Domesday Book, of a fortified dwelling, *domus defensabilis* : “bulided,” says Taylor, in his History of Gavel-kind, “because of its vicinity to the Welsh borders.” Between two and three miles to the north-east, near the banks of a rivulet above ALMELEY, was another Border CASTLE, of which scarcely any vestige can now be found.

At HUNTINGDON, on the borders of Radnorshire, about one mile west from the river Arrow, are the ruins of another CASTLE, which “longid,” says Leland, “to the Duke of Bokingham.”† This Castle gave name to the hundred in which it stood.

## KINGTON,

A SMALL market and clothing town, situated on the Black Brook, under Bradnor Mountain, was also the site of a CASTLE, constructed for the defence of the Marches, but now destroyed. The Church is a very irregular structure, having a detached tower, surrounded by a spire of singular form. At the entrance of the

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town

\* Gough's Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 446.

† Itin. Vol. V. p. 3.

town is a *Free Grammar School*, erected and endowed by a Lady Watkins. The inhabitants of this township, as ascertained under the act of 1801, amounted to 1424: the number of houses to 311. On the summit of BRADNOR MOUNTAIN are the remains of a square CAMP.

Between two and three miles eastward of Kington, are the ruins of LYONS-HALL CASTLE, of which scarcely any thing now remains but fragments of the outer walls. "The very old Lords of *Lednshall*," says Leland, "were the *Marburyes*, whose heir-general conveyed it to the *Devereaux* in marriage." In the beginning of the reign of Henry the Third, Sir Stephen d'Ebroicis was Lord of this Manor and Castle; and by him the Church was given to the Canons of St. Leonard of Pyona. In the reign of Edward the First, William, Baron Tuchet, was Lord here, and procured, by his influence with that Monarch, license of free warren for this Manor, together with a grant of a market and annual fair, both long since disused. In the succeeding reign the Castle was demolished.\* The late Lord Viscount Weymouth was owner of this estate.

EYWOOD, about two miles north from Lyons-Hall, is the principal seat of Edward Harley, Earl of Oxford, and Earl Mortimer, who possesses a very considerable extent of landed property in the north-western part of this county. The Harleys trace their descent to the time of King Ethelred, in whose army one of their ancestors held an important command. Richard de Harley aided Roger Mortimer, and the Earl of Gloucester, in contriving the escape of Prince Edward from Hereford; and for this service his family was particularly patronised by Edward, after he became King. In his reign, Robert de Harley married Margaret, eldest daughter of Brian de Brampton, by which he obtained the Castle of Brampton-Brian, and a large estate. Sir Thomas Harley was held in much estimation by James the First, from whom he obtained a grant of the Honour and Castle of Wigmore, in consideration of a distant relationship with the Mortimers, its former lords.

Sir

Sir Edward Harley, Knight of the Bath, assisted in the restoration of Charles the Second, and was made Governor of Dunkirk, but resisting the iniquitous sale of that fortress, he was superceded. He afterwards raised a troop of horse for the service of the Prince of Orange. His son, the celebrated Sir Robert Harley, afterwards created Baron Harley of Wigmore, Earl of Oxford, and Earl Mortimer, anno 1711, had a very important influence over the direction of national affairs during the reign of Queen Anne; having filled the offices in succession, of Speaker of the House of Commons, Principal Secretary of State, Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer, and Lord High Treasurer of England. With the death of that Queen, however, his power fell and very early in the succeeding reign he was impeached and tried for high treason; but on the first of July, 1717, was acquitted by his Peers. He died in May, 1724, aged sixty-two. Though various acts of his political life favored too strongly of arbitrary principles, this Nobleman was an active patron of literature; and, together with Edward, his son and successor, formed that invaluable collection of books and manuscripts on English history and antiquities, which is now deposited in the British Museum. The present Earl of Oxford, who is the fifth Earl of this family, succeeded to the titles and estates on the death of his uncle in October, 1790. The grounds at Eywood display a great diversity of scenery, and are ornamented with some fine plantations.

TILTEY was the site of a PRIORY, subordinate to the Abbey of Tyrone, in France. On the suppression of the Alien Priories, in the second of Henry the Fifth, it was given to the College at Winchester, and still belongs to that establishment. In the Churchyard at Tiltey is a monument to the memory of EDWARD HARLEY, Esq. Auditor of the Impost in the reign of Queen Anne. He was younger brother to the great Sir Robert Harley; and his son succeeded the son of that Nobleman in the honors and possessions of the family.

On the western extremity of WAPLEY, or WARREN HILL, north from Tiltey, are the vestiges of an extensive CAMP. The slope of the eminence is finely covered with wood, and its northern extremity is washed by a small river, which forms one of the

sources of the Lugg. The banks and ditches are five-fold, excepting on one side, where the steepness of the ascent is sufficient security: they are also very deep and high.

STEPLETON, another border CASTLE, was situated about a mile to the north of Presteign, a market-town of Radnorshire, just without the limits of this county, which includes, however, great part of Presteign Parish. Stepleton was anciently the property of the Earls Mortimer, but now belongs to the Earl of Oxford.

LYNGEN, or LINGEIN CASTLE, was the property of a family surnamed from this estate as early as the time of Henry the Third, and of whom Richard de Lingen appears to have commanded the troops of Herefordshire in the service of Henry the Fourth, during the rebellion of the Percies, and in that capacity granted a warrant to James de Brompton, empowering him to buy and sell cattle and sheep, in this county and the adjoining Marches, for his own use and profit, without affording relief to the Welsh rebels.\* Sir Henry Lingen, or Lingen, who married the daughter of Sir Walter Pyc, was a firm supporter of the cause of royalty during the Civil Wars in the time of Charles the First, in whose service great part of his fortune was expended. During the contest he besieged Brampton-Brian Castle, and burnt the adjacent village; to make good the damage of which, his remaining estates were sequestered by the Parliament but, after the inventory was completed, Sir Robert Harley, to whose use the proceeds were ordered to be applied, generously relinquished all his right in favor of Sir Henry's widow. Sir Henry had issue nineteen children, of whom seven daughters survived, and among whom his estates were afterwards divided. All this part of the country is extremely hilly, and the roads very rugged, and almost impassable for carriages. The mount on which the Castle stood, is situated near the village Church.

BRAMPTON-BRIAN was an ancient Lordship of the family of Brian de Brampton, who resided here from about the time of Henry the First, and having intermarried with some of the chief nobility of the kingdom, became extinct in the time of Edward the First,

\* See Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 457, and Duncumb's Herefordshire, Vol. I. p. 87, for a copy of the original warrant, taken from B'ount's MSS.

First, when Margaret, a co-heiress, conveyed this estate in marriage to Robert de Harley, whose descendant, the Earl of Oxford, is still owner. The CASTLE, which had been erected here at an early period, became the chief seat of the Harleys, till the time of the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles the First, when it was twice besieged by the forces in the service of the King, and at length burnt, and otherwise dilapidated. The ruins, which chiefly consist of some fragments of walls, and an entrance gate-way, flanked by two round towers, occupy a low situation, about 100 yards north from the Church. A curious chimney, rising like a turret above the curtain, and a stair-case, are tolerably perfect, but all the other interior parts are destroyed. The *Church* was greatly damaged during the siege of the Castle; the body of it was afterwards badly repaired, but the tower is a pile of ruins. In the south wall is an altar-tomb, green with moss, on which lies the effigies of a lady unknown, greatly mutilated. Above this is a large marble tablet, in memory of ROBERT HARLEY, first Earl of Oxford. Another plain tablet records the name of SARAH, daughter of Thomas Foley, Esq. and wife to Edward Harley, Esq. the Earl's younger brother. In a space called the *Wilderness*, near the Church and Castle, are some of the largest and most flourishing trees in England. On the west from the Church is a large and respectable brick mansion belonging to the Harleys; and still further to the west, a Park, nearly six miles in circumference, occupying a considerable portion of an extensive eminence.

COXWALL-KNOLL CAMP, which has been already noticed as the last post occupied by the gallant Caractacus,\* is scarcely a mile to the north of Brampton-Brian Park.\* Its form is irregular, but somewhat approaching to the section of an ellipsis, within the works, and on the banks, grow some fine old oaks. BRANDON CAMP, the supposed BRAVINIUM of the Romans,† is about three miles to the east, and on the opposite side of the river Teme. This camp, which is of a square form, with a single ditch and rampart, is thought to have been occupied by Ostorius Scapula, previous to his decisive victory over Caractacus.

M m 4

DOWNTON,

\* See p. 404.

† Duncumb's Collections, Vol. I. p. 27.



**DOWNTON**, the manor and seat of Richard Payne Knight, Esq. one of the parliamentary representatives for Ludlow, in Shropshire, has obtained a very distinguished celebrity; not more, perhaps, from the natural beauties of the situation, than from the intemperate criticism which has been poured out by unreflecting judges upon the principles that directed the taste of the classic owner, in the formation of his house, and disposition of his grounds. The singular irregularity of the former, which has proved the greatest source of fretful remark, had origin in the very design of the builder, whose intention was not so much to copy the style or manner of any particular age or country, as to produce a comfortable, pleasant and elegant dwelling, under an outward form, which might serve as a principal and not unsuitable feature, in the wild, romantic and picturesque scenery of his demesne.\* From its towers and embattled walls, however, its exterior assumes the appearance of a *Castle*; and by this appellation it is generally called; though it certainly was not designed to imitate a Gothic fortress, but rather the military architecture of the Greeks and Romans, which, like that of all civilized nations unacquainted with fire-arms, appears to have been in this style; embattled walls, flanked with towers, being the most obvious and effectual fortifications against every other kind of weapon: This mansion is built with stone, and situated on an elevated bank, commanding a lawn bounded by the river Teme, and surrounded by an extensive amphitheatre

\* In the ‘*Analytical Inquiry into the Principles of Taste*,’ published by Mr. Knight during the course of the present summer, the mansion at Downton is thus alluded to. “It is now more than thirty years since the author of this Inquiry ventured to build a house ornamented with what are called Gothic towers and battlements without, and with Grecian ceilings, columns, and entablatures, within; and though his example has not been much followed, he has every reason to congratulate himself upon the success of the experiment, he having at once the advantage of a picturesque object, and of an elegant and convenient dwelling, though less perfect in both respects than if he had executed it at a milder age. It has, nowever, the advantage of receiving alterations and additions in almost every direction, without any injury to its genuine and original character.” This mansion was begun in 1774, and first inhabited in 1778.

amphitheatre of wood, admitting occasional peeps over a varied and beautiful country. Though consisting of several parts of dissimilar character, each part is uniform in itself; and the whole, from its general union with the contiguous scenery, appears to great advantage. In this particular it justly exemplifies those principles of picturesque taste which Mr. Knight has developed in his poem of the 'Landscape,' and which the disposition of his grounds is still further calculated to exhibit.

" — So let the approach and entrance to your place  
 Display no glitter, and affect no grace;  
 But still in careless easy curves proceed,  
 Through the rough thicket, or the flowery mead;  
 Till bursting from some deep-embower'd shade,  
 Some narrow valley, or some opening glade,  
 Well mix'd and blended in the scene, you shew  
 The stately mansion rising to the view:  
 But mix'd and blended ever let it be,  
 A mere component part of what you see.

\* \* \* \* \*

Component parts in all the eye requires;  
 One formal mass for ever palls and tires.

The interior is fitted up with great taste and elegance; and some of the apartments are decorated with a few select pictures by the most eminent masters. The *Dining Room* occupies the centre of an octagon tower, which forms an angle of the southwest front: its diameter is about twenty-eight or thirty feet. The ceiling rises into a dome, finished by a lanthorn, from which, and from one window looking to the front, this apartment receives all its light. Opposite to the window is an organ; and in four recesses are as many side-boards, placed between very large pillars, ranged in couples: in each recess also is a niche, ornamented by a statue. The *Library*, though small, contains a very excellent collection of the best authors. here also is a portrait of the proprietor of the mansion.

With the advantage of a fine mountain river, a profusion of wood, some bold rocks, and a variety of distances, Downton may  
 justly

justly be considered as one of the most picturesque seats in England. Here Nature has concentrated some of her most delightful charms; and Art, guided by true taste, has contented herself with exhibiting the beauties which she could not improve.

— To lead, with secret guile, the prying sight  
To where component parts may best unite,  
And form one beauteous nicely-blended whole,  
To charm the eye, and captivate the soul.

LANDSCAPE, p. 14.

From the house the ground falls rapidly into a beautiful little valley, watered by the Teme, which flows in a wild and impetuous current over its rocky bed. The opposite bank is finely clothed with luxuriant wood, rising in various shapes to its very summit. The course of the stream is richly diversified; its channel now contracts, and now grows wider, while the wild and solitary path which leads through the woods by its side, opens upon many beautiful and rich scenes. In some parts, the stream, shut up between high and narrow banks, foams along its rocky channel with tumultuous rapidity; and near the point where it emerges into the more open valley overlooked by the mansion, a bridge has been thrown, along which the path is continued. In other parts the banks are less steep, and the prospects more extensive, but in all the views are richly adorned with pendant foliage. The river meanders through the grounds to an extent of about three miles, its banks being fringed with wood, rising to a considerable height through a great part of that distance: indeed, the landscapes are peculiarly rich, the most eminent, perhaps, is that which includes a mill between one and two miles below the house, and, with its adjuncts, composes a scene of uncommon grandeur and interest. Besides the poem of the 'Landscape,' Mr. Knight has written one of yet higher character, intitled the 'Progress of Civil Liberty,' which is divided into six books, treating in succession, on the subjects of Hunting, Pasturage, Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, Climate and Soil, Government and Conquest.

In .

In the last book, the author thus expresses his wish to pass his latter days in the bosom of his own demesne:

Here, on thy shady banks, pellucid Team,  
 May heaven bestow its last poetic dream,  
 Here may these oaks in life's last glimmer shed  
 Their sober shadows o'er my drooping head,  
 And those fair Dryads whom I sang to save,  
 Reward their poet with a peaceful grave

RICHARD's CASTLE, about four miles south-east from Downton, was erected before the Conquest, probably by *Richard Scrope*, in the time of Edward the Confessor,\* but scarcely any vestige of this fortress now remains. At the period of the Domesday Survey, it was held by Osborne Fitz-Richard, whose grandson assumed the name of Say, and was killed in Wales in the reign of Richard the First. Margaret, his grand-daughter, conveyed it in marriage to Robert de Mortimer, from whose family, by an heiress also, it passed to the Talbots, who possessed it till the time of Richard the second. It has since passed through various families, and is now, or was lately, the property of the *Salways*. On the declivity of the eminence contiguous to the Castle, a body of Royalists, amounting to nearly 2000 horse and foot, under the command of Sir Thomas Lundesford, were surprised, in the year 1645, by a force far inferior, headed by Colonel Birch, and dispersed with much slaughter. "Richard's Castle," says Leland, "standeth on the toppe of a very rocky hill, and at the west end of the parochie church ther, the keep, the walles, and the towers of it stand, but going to ruine ther is a park impaled, and welle wooded, but no deer."† Robert Mortimer procured a charter of a market and fair for this manor from King John, but both have long been disused.

WIGMORE, the head of the famous barony of the Mortimers, Earls of March, is reputed "one of the most ancient Honours in England,

\* Dugd. Bar. Vol. I. p. 453.

† Itin. Vol. IV. p. 178.

England, and has twenty-one manors that owe suit to the Honour-court, held here once every six weeks. All the circuit of the land wherein these manors lie, is called Wigmore Land, and has two Constables, and gives name to the hundred. The privileges granted by our Kings to this Honour, were even *Jura Regalia*, as appears by *Stat. Parl* eighteenth of Edward the First.\* After the Conquest, this Honour became the inheritance of the *Mortimers*, who were descended from Richard, first Duke of Normandy, and came into England with the Conqueror. This family, which makes such a distinguished figure in the historical annals of Great Britain, settled at Wigmore, which appears to have previously belonged to Edric Sylvaticus, Earl of Shrewsbury, who having been vanquished, and made prisoner, by Ranulph Mortimer, was deprived of all his extensive possessions, which were then granted to Ranulph, by the Norman Sovereign, in reward for his important services. The Mortimers appear to have inherited an almost unconquerable intrepidity of spirit, and this, united with the vast influence acquired from their immense estates, enabled them, more than once, to disturb the peace of the kingdom; and at length, even the throne itself became the patrimony of their descendant, Edward the Fourth. The independent authority which they possessed as *Lords Marchers*, most probably combined with the state of warfare in which they were frequently engaged with the Welsh, to cherish and invigorate this decision of character, so that no sense of personal danger could allure them from the attempted accomplishment of a purpose once determined on.

In the reign of Henry the Fourth, the celebrated Owen Glendour, provoked by the injustice of Lord Grey of Ruthyn, took up arms, to recover possession of an estate, of which he had been unjustly deprived by that Nobleman. Henry sent assistance to Grey; and by this impolitic conduct, kindled the flames of a tedious and bloody war; for Glendour being supported by his countrymen, sustained the contest with invincible hardihood; and inspired by success, approached the estates of the Mortimers, committing

\* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 454; from Blount's MSS.

mitting almost every kind of depredation in his progress. The Earl of March advanced from Wigmore to give him battle; but after a desperate struggle, was defeated, and made prisoner, according to tradition, by Glendour himself, after a personal combat sustained with great bravery. Shakespeare has alluded to this circumstance in his play of Henry the Fourth, where he makes the impatient Hotspur thus address the King, in reply to his refusal to ransom "revolted Mortimer."

"Revolted Mortimer!

He never did fall off, my sovereign liege,  
But by the chance of war; to prove that true,  
Needs no more than one tongue for all those wounds,  
Those mouthed wounds, which valiantly he took,  
When on the gentle Severn's sedgy bank,  
In single opposition, hand to hand,  
He did confound the best part of an hour  
In changing hardiment with great Glendour;  
Three times they breathed, and three times did they drink  
Upon agreement of sweet Severn's flood,  
Who then, affrighted with their bloody looks,  
Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds,  
And hid his crisped head in a hollow bank,  
Blood-stained with these valiant combatants."\*

The conduct of Henry, in refusing to ransom the Earl of March, may be accounted for, by observing, that the latter was the real heir to the Crown after the resignation of Richard the Second, and of course, an object of eternal jealousy to the King, who equally dreaded and hated the whole family of March. His refusal, however, was attended by disastrous consequences; for Mortimer, indignant at the neglect, formed an alliance with Glendour, in conjunction with his relatives, the Percies of Northumberland; and, but for the celerity of Henry, who defeated the army of the latter  
near

\* It should be observed, that the battle between Glendour and the Earl of March, was not fought on the banks of the Severn, as appears from this extract, but on those of the Arrow, in this county

near Shrewsbury, before they could effect a junction with the other confederates, the Crown would have been torn from his brow. The army of Glendour himself was dispersed near Leominster, by a sudden panic, occasioned by the pursuit and rapid approach of Prince Henry, afterwards Henry the Fifth, with the Royal forces. Glendour never recovered the consequences of this discomfiture; for being proscribed, and forced to become a wanderer, he is said, by some authors, to have been found starved to death in Haywood Forest, near Hereford: others, however, with more probability, represent him to have sought refuge at the house of one of his sons-in-law, either Scudamore, or Monnington, both of Herefordshire: tradition affirms, that he died at the abode of the latter, and that he was buried in the Churchyard at Monnington.

The situation of Wigmore is very romantic: its site is the slope of an immense mountain of bare rock, and the streets themselves are the undisturbed masses of stone; this circumstance will ever prevent the place attaining any considerable consequence, as it renders them almost impassable for horses and carriages. The *Church* stands on the very pinnacle of the hill, and close to a precipice, whose chasms are filled by large trees.

On an eminence westward from the village, irregularly intersected by ravines, and covered with underwood, are the ruins of WIGMORE CASTLE, now almost enveloped by a mantle of rich ivy. The outward wall is the most perfect, though of this a very considerable part is destroyed. Within the area, on a high artificial hill, are the ruins of the Keep, chiefly consisting of massive fragments, overlooking the country to the north and east, with much grandeur: on the west, the Castle is itself commanded by a more elevated hill, now covered by a flourishing young wood. When this building was originally founded is unknown; but it was certainly before the time of Edward the Elder, who is recorded to have repaired Wigmore. It was taken from Edric Sylviaticus, as before mentioned, by Ranulph Mortimer; and appears to have been soon afterwards re-built by William Fitz-Osborne, Earl of Hereford. "It is impossible," observes Mr. Gough, "to contemplate the  
massive

massive ruins of Wigmore Castle, situate on a hill in an amphitheatre of mountains, whence its owner could survey his vast estates, from his square palace, with four corner towers, on a Keep at the south-west corner of his double trenched out-works, without reflecting on the instability of the grandeur of a family, whose ambition and intrigues made more than one English Monarch uneasy on his throne; yet not a memorial remains of their sepulture.\* On the hills west of the Castle, were two parks, now ploughed up, and cultivated. The northern extremity of the DARVOLD HILL displays vestiges of a small CAMP.

About one mile from Wigmore, on the north, is the site of WIGMORE ABBEY, and *Grange*, founded for Augustine Canons, by Ranulph Mortimer, and his son, Hugh de Mortimer, previous to the year 1179. The endowments made by the latter were very great; and this establishment continued to flourish till the period of the Dissolution, when its annual revenues amounted, according to Speed, to 302l. 12s. 3½d. In the Abbey Church many of the Mortimers were buried, and among them five Earls of March; all of whose monuments were destroyed at the Dissolution, together with the building itself to the bare walls. About forty years ago, a stone coffin was discovered, with a small urn, holding ashes, “with some silver coin in the leaden coffin, which contained a body perfect, but mouldered on opening.”† The lands belonging to the Grange are rented at 500l. per annum.

CROFT CASTLE, between two and three miles south-eastward from Wigmore, was the ancient seat of the *Crofts*, a Saxon family of distinction and celebrity, who are known to have resided here in the reign of Edward the Confessor, but suffered a temporary deprivation on the coming of the Conqueror. Again recovering possession, their descendants continued to reside here till nearly the conclusion of the last century, when the family became extinct. The estate is now the property of Somerset Davis, Esq. who has also a seat called WIGMORE HALL, about two miles distant: the Castle has long been demolished. An extensive Park ranges on an eminence

\* Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 454.

† Ibid.



eminence to the north from Croft, in the north-western part of which is a British Camp, with a double ditch and rampart, called **CROFT AMBREY**: the prospect from this site is very extensive and grand. On an eminence to the south-west, above **AVEMESTRE**, is a smaller **CAMP**, of a square form. The valley through which the river Lugg flows, in this part of its course, is extremely rich and picturesque; particularly near Avemestre, where the bridge, rocks, hanging woods, and beautiful meadows, compose a scene worthy of the pencil of a Claude.

The little village of **MORTIMER'S CROSS** is situated in a very beautiful valley, bounded by considerable eminences covered with fine timber, and watered by the picturesque stream of the Lugg. This place became celebrated from the battle fought between the partizans of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, on Candlemas Eve, 1461: the issue of which proved decisive in favor of the Earl of March, afterwards Edward the Fourth, who commanded in person. The immediate site of the battle was *Kingsland Field*, a level, though not extensive plain, intersected by a brook, and extending southward. Here, in an angle of two roads, a neat Tuscan **PEDESTAL** of white stone has been erected, having on its base the following inscription:

This Pedestal is erected to perpetuate the Memory of an obstinate, bloody, and decisive Battle fought near this Spot, in the Civil Wars between the ambitious Houses of York and Lancaster, on the 2d Day of February, 1460,—between the Forces of **EDWARD MORTIMER**, Earl of March, afterwards **EDWARD IV.** on the side of York, and those of **HENRY VI.** on the side of Lancaster. The King's Forces were commanded by Jasper, Earl of Pembroke: Edward commanded his own in person, and was victorious. The Slaughter was great on both sides; 4000 being left dead on the Field; and many Welsh Persons, of the first Distinction, were taken Prisoners, among whom was Owen Tudor, great Grandfather to Henry VIII. and a Descendant of the illustrious Cadwallader, who was afterwards beheaded at Hereford. This was the decisive Battle that fixed Edward IV. on the Throne of England: he was proclaimed King on the Fifth of March following.—

Erected by Subscription, 1799.

A concise

A concise account of this battle, and of the singular *Phenomenon* which occurred at the time it was fought, is thus given by Speed. "On the verge of this shire, but between Ludlow and Little Hereford, a great battail was fought by Jasper, Earle of Pembroke, and James Butler, Earle of Ormond and Wiltshire, against the Earle of Marche; in whiche three thousand and eight hundred men were slaine: the two Earles fled, but Owen Teuther was taken, and beheaded. This field was fought upon the daye of the Virgin Mary's Purification, in anno 1461 wherein before the battail was strok, appeared visibly in the firmament *three Sunnes*, which after a while joined altogether, and became as before, for which cause, as some have thought, Edward afterwards gave the Sunne in his full brightness, for his hadge and cognizance." This appearance has likewise been noticed by other historians. Drayton, in his '*Miseries of Queen Margarite*,' has also mentioned it; and, with true poetical license, ascribed the victory obtained by the Earl of March, then Duke of York by the recent death of his father, to the invigorating hopes conceived from this phenomenon.

- Three *Suns* were seen that instant to appeare,
- Which soone again shut up themselves in one,
- Ready to buckle as the armies were,
- Which this brave Duke took to himself alone,
- His drooping hopes which somewhat seem'd to cheere,
- By his mishaps neare lately overthrowne:
- So that thereby encouraging his men,
- Once more he sets the White Rose up agen.

KINGSLAND is a pleasant, well-built, and neat village, having a very agreeable appearance, from a custom prevalent among the inhabitants, of shading their doors and windows with jessamine, woodbines, and grape-vines. The *Church* is a massive building, and consists of an embattled tower, with a nave, side aisles, and chancel. Kingsland was part of the great inheritance of the Mortimers. Margaret, widow of Lord Mortimer, procured a grant of a market and fair for this manor, in the thirty-fourth of Edward the First; but the former has long been disused. "Some say," observes Leland,

"there was a *Castle* at Kingsland, near the Parsonage House, and that King Merwald was buried there." This manor was part of the estate of the late Lord Viscount Bateman, of Shobden Court.

SHOBDEN COURT, the elegant seat of Lady Bateman, is about two miles westward from Mortimer's Cross. The Park is between three and four miles in extent, and includes some rich and picturesque scenery. On the decease of Lady Bateman, this estate will become the property of William Hanbury, Esq. of Kelmars, in Northamptonshire. *Shobden Church*, which stands near the Mansion, was built by Oliver de Merlylond, Steward to Hugh de Mortimer, about the year 1140, and a small PRIORY for Canons founded near it, but afterwards removed to Eye, and thence finally to Wigmore.

PEMBRIDGE, now a small village, about two miles south from Shobden, near the southern banks of the river Arrow, gave name to the ancient and honorable family of *Pembruge*, *Pembridge*, or *Brydges*, ancestors of the Lords Chandos, of whom Henry de Pembruge was High Sheriff of Herefordshire in the forty-second and third of Henry the Third; and Sir Richard de Pembruge, who lies buried in Hereford Cathedral, was made Knight of the Garter by Edward the Third. This was part of the estate of the Mortimers, who procured the privilege of a market for this place; and Henry the First granted it a charter of liberties: the market has been long disused.

## LEOMINSTER

Is situated in a very rich and fertile vale, abounding with orchards, hop-yards, fine meadows, and arable lands. Its immediate site, as Leland describes, is "sumwhat lowe, and all the ground very neere about it is farre lower." The river Lugg flows on its north and east sides: two smaller streams run through the town, and three other considerable rivulets pass it within half a mile. Its extent, from north to south, is nearly a mile; and from east to west, about half that distance. The suburbs are ill-built, and the streets in the centre of the town are narrow; but the stranger must be highly amused by the variety of old timber  
and

and plaster houses, fantastically adorned with curious grotesque carvings, and colored white and black. Most of the modern buildings, however, and which have much increased within the last ten or twenty years, are respectable edifices of brick.

"The towne of *Leominster*," says Leland, "is metely large, and hath good buildinges of tymbre. The towne, by reason of their principall wool, use greate drapunge of clothe, and thereby it flourished. Syns of latter days it chanced that the cittyes of Hereford and Worcester complained of the frequency of people that came to Lemster, in prejudice of bothe their markets, in the shyre towne, and also in hindringe their drapunge whereupon the Saturday markett was removed from Lemster, and a markett on Friday was newly assigned unto it. syns that time the towne of Lemster hath decayed.

"The antiquity of the towne is most famous by a *Monastery of Nunnes* that Merwauldus, Kinge of the Marches, built here, and endowed it with all the land thereabout, saving only the Lordshipe now called Kingsland, and it is supposed of Clerkes, that the old name of the towne toke beginning of the Nunnes, and was called in Welch, *Llan-l'heny*; that is, *locus religiosum monialium*, and not of a lion, that is written to have appeared to King Merwald, upon which vision he began, as it is said, to build this Nunnery other Kings of the Marches immediately following King Merwald, were benefactors unto yt. Some say that the Nunnery was after in the Danes wars destroyed, and that after a College of Prebends set ther the certainty is known that the Abbey of Shaftsbury had rule at Lemster, and possessed much landes there, and sent part of the reliques of St. Edward the martyr to be adored there. King Henry I. annexed the laws of Lemster to his Abbey of Reading, and ther was a Cell of Monks instituted at Lemster by the Abbots of Reading. Some say that the Monks of the Priory said that they had the scull of the head of Merewald, and of Ethelmund, Kings of Merch. Mr. Hacklunt told me, that the body of King Merewald was found in a wall in the old church at Wenlok.

"Ther is but one Paroche Church in Leominster; but it is large, somewhat dark, and of ancient building, insomuch that yt is a

greate likelihood that yt is the Church that was afore the Conquest. The Church of the Priory was hard joined to the east end of the Paroche Church, and was but a small thunge. The common fame of the people about Lemster is, that King Merewald, and some of his successors, had a Castle, or Palace, on an hill side by the town of Leominster, half a mile off by east; the place is now called Comfort Castle, wher now be some tokens of diches, where buildings have been. the people of Lernster, and thereabouts, come once a year to this place to sport and play."

The etymology of the name of Leominster, given by Camden, corresponds with that assigned by Leland; but other writers have attributed it to a different source. According to Hill, this town derives its present appellation from its situation at the conflux of the rivers Lugg and Oney; the latter name appearing to be the original denomination of the stream now called the Pinsley. thus *Lug-Oney-Minster*, which he supposes to have been its former name, would be softened into Leonminster and Leominster, in the same manner as Leominster is now in general discourse pronounced Lemster. In Blount's Manuscripts, another derivation is offered: after observing that the name of the town is spelt *Leofmunstre* in the Domesday Book, he deduces that appellation from the minster or church of Leof, or Leofric, who was Earl of Mercia, and is styled *Comes Herefordiensem*, by William of Malmesbury. This etymology, though plausible, is not supported by any record, either oral or written, of any building ever having been founded in this town by Leofric. the probability, therefore, in favor of the opinion of Leland and Camden is by far the strongest.

Merwald, from whose religious foundation, and residence, or Castle, Leominster appears to have thus originated, was the son of Penda, King of Mercia, and brother of Peada, his successor, who was the first Christian Monarch of that state. How the Nunnery founded by him was restored after its destruction by the Danes is uncertain; but it is known to have existed here about the beginning of the reign of Edward the Confessor, when Swain, Earl of Hereford, eldest son of Earl Godwyn, inveigled Edgiva, the Abbess, from her Convent; for which offence he was banished the kingdom,

kingdom, but was afterwards permitted to return through the influence of his father.

The next transaction in which the name of Leominster occurs, was in the irruption into Herefordshire by Gryffyth, a Welsh Sovereign, and Algar, Earl of Chester,\* anno 1055, when those chieftains seized upon the town, and strengthened it by fortifications, the remains of which may be traced even at the present period.† The approach of Earl Harold occasioned the Welsh to retire precipitately; though, according to some accounts, they were first routed in battle. Harold, having recovered the town, is supposed to have strengthened the works, and placed a garrison here for the better security of the inhabitants.

At the period of the Domesday Survey, Leominster had become a place of considerable consequence, as may be inferred from the particulars recorded in the Domesday Book. From that important register it appears, that the manor, with its appurtenances, consisting of sixteen dependent estates, had been assigned by Edward the Confessor, to his Queen Eddith, or Editha, and that it was governed by eight *Præpositi*, or Bailiffs; eight *Bedelli*, or Beadles; and eight *Radchenstri*, or free Tenants; and that it contained 238 *Villains*, seventy-four *Borderers*, and eighty-two men and women servants.

When the survey was made, the manor belonged to the King, great part of the customary rent was paid as composition for salt, fish, and eels. Here was also a wood six miles in length, and three broad; but part of it was even then began to be assarted, and cleared for tillage. an *aerie* of hawks is also mentioned in the same record.

About the time of William Rufus, the fortifications of Leominster were strengthened and enlarged, the better to secure it against the incursions of the Welsh. \* In the reign of King John, William de Braose,† or Braouse, Lord of Brecknock, a turbulent and

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high-spirited

\* See under Hereford, p. 441.

† Price's History, &c. of Leominster, p. 8

‡ This Nobleman was father of Bishop Egidius de Braose, who lies buried in Hereford Cathedral, see p. 475.

high-spirited Baron, who had several times been High Sheriff of this county, and was possessed of many of the Border Castles, revolted against that Sovereign, and making incursions into this neighbourhood, seized on Weobley Castle, and then marched against Leominster. The inhabitants knowing his cruel disposition, sought refuge within the works; but after a few weeks were forced to surrender; when De Braose plundered the town, and burnt great part of it, together with the Priory and Church, and treated the towns-people with much inhumanity. The buildings of that period are recorded to have been situated more on the western banks of the Lugg than they are present.\* De Braose was afterwards obliged to seek refuge on the Continent: but his wife and eldest son, falling into the hands of the King, were barbarously starved to death in Windsor Castle.

The next historical occurrence in which Leominster was concerned, was subsequent to the defeat of the Earl of March by Owen Glendour,† who shortly afterwards took possession of the town, and confined Mortimer in a common dungeon, now converted into a stable, at the top of Church Street ‡ he also plundered the Church of many rich ornaments, and levied a very heavy contribution on the inmates of the Priory. After the battle of Shrewsbury, Glendour appears to have had some trifling success against the royal army; but finding himself in danger of discomfiture, he retreated from Leominster, and stationed his army in a strong camp, on a hill about two miles to the south. Prince Henry seemed wishing to attack him in that situation: but finding the works almost inaccessible, took post on a neighbouring eminence, probably in expectation of what really happened, that want of provisions would oblige Glendour to abandon his entrenchments §

Previously

\*B'ounz's Manuscripts.

† See under Wigmore, p. 556—558.

‡ Price's Leominster, p. 20.

§ The ancient Camp in which Owen Glendour sought refuge, is thought to be that called IVINTON'S CAMP on the Brierley Hills. This supposition

Previously to this, however, Glendour hazarded a few skirmishes with the King's troops; but finding himself too strongly opposed to permit him to risk a general engagement, he gave orders to retreat; but the Prince, who appears to have attentively watched his every motion, pursued with so much celerity, that the Welsh army were seized with a sudden panic, and forsaking their leader, dispersed, and fled in every direction.

Previous to the battle between the Earl of March, and Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, in the year 1460-61, the Royal forces were strengthened by the garrison of Leominster; and here, after the victory obtained by the former, Morgan ap Reather, David Floyd, Esq. and several other Welshmen of note, who had been made prisoners, were executed without trial. Nothing of particular interest relating to Leominster occurs in its annals, from this period till the death of Edward the Sixth, when the endeavours of the Duke of Northumberland to secure the throne for the Lady Jane Grey, occasioned an assemblage near the town of about 13,000 men in the Duke's interest. This force quickly began to diminish, as the success of the Princess Mary became more apparent, till at length the most zealous partizans of the Duke alone remained together; and they strongly entrenched themselves on a small eminence, called *Curnah* or *Coursenah Hall*, about one mile west from Leominster, and from this tower menaced the town with an assault. The inhabitants, who were mostly in favor of the regular succession, procured assistance from Hereford, from the forces then under the command of the Earl of Arundel, and, headed by Philip Hobby, Richard Wallwayn, and Francis Throckmorton, made an attack on the entrenched camp, and, after a hard struggle, defeated and dispersed the adherents of the Lady Jane, whose party from this time could never assemble in sufficient number to disturb the public security. Mary appears to have con-

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dered

supposition, which is exceedingly probable, induces a conjecture, that the *Camp* in which Prince Henry stationed his army to watch the motions of Glendour, was that which may yet be traced a few miles to the westward, nearly midway on the road between Stretford and Pembridge.



dered the service thus rendered as of considerable importance, for she soon afterwards rewarded the leaders with promotion, and granted the first regular charter of incorporation to this town, together with many valuable and extensive privileges.

The year 1610 gave birth to a contagious disorder at Hereford, and during its continuance the summer assizes were held in this town. One cause then decided here, shows the severity of the religious statutes then in force: this was the case of *Roger Cadwalader*, a Roman Catholic Priest, a native of Stretton-Sugwas, near Hereford, who was condemned, and executed, and his four quarters set up on different sides of the town, for taking orders beyond sea. In the time of Charles the First, the Oliverians erected a battery of cannon near the Church, in order to over-awe the inhabitants, who were thought to be too favorably disposed to the Royal cause. no event of historical celebrity has since occurred here.

The manor of Leominster, with all its appurtenances, then valued at 666l. 19s. 8d. annually, was given, by Henry the First, to Reading Abbey, which he had founded for the maintenance of 200 Benedictine Monks, and the refreshment of travellers, on the site of a more ancient religious establishment. In consequence of this grant, the Priory at Leominster became subordinate to the Abbots of Reading; and the town itself was governed by officers who held their places under their charter, and were chosen or approved by them, or by the Prior of Leominster. The principal officers were an Upper and Under Bailiff, who appear to have been assisted by a Common Council, formed of the principal Burgesses. Henry the Second granted the town its first annual fair in 1170; two additional fairs were granted by Edward the First, each of six days continuance. After the dissolution of the Monasteries, Leominster, with its various members, was held by the Crown, till the time of James the First, when it was granted by that Sovereign to his favorite the Duke of Buckingham, with the whole of its appendages, on condition of paying into the Exchequer the yearly rent of 305l. 11s. 5d. Part of this sum was probably intended to be paid over to the Queen, Anne of Denmark, in whom Leominster,

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with four of its dependant manors, had been vested, as parcel of her jointure. During the Interregnum, the estates which had belonged to the Queen, were in the possession of Henry Martin, Esq. one of the Judges of Charles the First, who was afterwards confined for twenty-seven years in Chepstow Castle; but, after the Restoration, the whole appears to have been restored to the then Duke of Buckingham, the spendthrift and profligate Villiers, of whom Pope has drawn such a masterly character in his Moral Essays. This Nobleman sold a very considerable part of the estates to different purchasers about the year 1662; and ten or twelve years afterwards, the remainder, including the manor and borough of Leominster, was taken possession of by Major Wildman, who had been an active supporter of the Parliament during the Civil Wars, and to whom the Duke was indebted the sum of 1400*l*. The Major obtained a regular conveyance of these estates in 1675, and, after the Revolution in 1688, sold several of them, and leased so many others for twenty-one years, that the proceeds of the residue scarcely amounted to thirty pounds more than the fee-farm rent payable to the Crown. He therefore, in 1692, sold all the remainder, including Leominster, to Lord Coningsby, who was then Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, for 3060*l*. The Earl of Essex, a descendant from his Lordship by the female line, is now owner.

The Church at Leominster is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul: the whole of that part of the structure appropriated to divine service, was erected at the beginning of the last century; the old Church, which seems to have been a magnificent fabric, having been partly destroyed, on the eighteenth of March, 1700, by an accidental fire, occasioned by the carelessness of some plumbers, who had been employed in repairing the leads. The particular cause of the fire, was the leaving of a pot of ignited charcoal during breakfast; the wind being strong, blew the flame upon some peas-halme, which had been laid under the roof, and this communicating with the timber, produced the conflagration by which great part of the edifice was destroyed. Soon afterwards, an estimate of the "charges necessary to put the Church into the same state in which it was before the fire happened," was made on oath, and

and amounted to 14,5+11. 18s. 1d. The expences of the new fabric, however, exceeded this estimate by upwards of 2000l.

This Church in its present state is irregular, both in its form and architecture. The most ancient parts are the east wall, the north side, the tower which stands at the north-west-angle, the west end, and the wall and windows of the south side. In the interior, the chief part is modern, excepting what is called the back aisle, which, as well as the lower part of the tower, is principally of Saxon workmanship. The exterior of the east end has three large buttresses, a high pointed window, with intersecting mullions, and two smaller windows. The ground to the eastward is uneven; possibly from the foundations of the Priory Church, which Leland mentions to have stood here, but which, as he also observes, "was but a small thinge." On the north side is a very strong semicircular arched door-way, with a smaller one within it, and three singular windows, having angular wooden mullions and gables with roofs: the clerestory windows, which appear above, have semicircular arches. The upper part of the tower is in the Pointed style, and embattled; the lower part is Saxon. it displays a singularly rich entrance *Door-way* on the west, having a recessed arch, with three pillars on each side, whose capitals are ornamented with sculptures of foliage, a couchant man, a tyger, snakes entwined round branches, and birds. The mouldings or arches supported by these pillars, are slightly pointed, but are embellished with lozenges and zig-zag work. Above this door-way is a mutilated recessed Saxon window, the capitals of the pillars on each side of which are highly ornamented with scrolls and tracery. Beyond the tower are two large pointed western windows; the largest, which is next the tower, is very rich in tracery work. the mullions are uncommonly labored throughout, and those in the middle are supported by buttresses: the other window is more simple, but equally rich in ornament; the mullions are entirely covered with rosettes, as are the mouldings on the sides and within the arch; the windows on the south side are also all pointed, and embellished in a similar manner.

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The interior length of this building is 125 feet ; and its breadth 124 ; the northern and southern sides measuring each sixty-two feet. On the north side is the nave and north aisle of the ancient Church, which are separated from each other by a range of massive circular columns, with round arches, over which are Saxon arcades, and still higher, rude arched windows: the arch of the tower, which opens into this part, is pointed, and reaches nearly to the roof, which is here of timber ; a corresponding row of massive columns range on the south side between the old and new parts of the building. The south side, which is the modern part, and that used for divine service, is spacious and lofty, and in a plain but neat stile ; the roof is sustained on four Tuscan pillars. The pews are of oak, and are regularly disposed : at the west end is a neat gallery, supported by Corinthian pillars a fine organ was erected in this gallery in the years 1737 and 1738. The altar-piece is a painting of the Last Supper, from Reubens. Most of the ancient monuments contained in this Church, were destroyed by the fire in 1700 : those which now remain, are not of particular interest. Some curious ancient stalls were destroyed also at the same time. Before the Dissolution, several chantries and altars were established in this Church. In the Church-yard are memorials of two females, named *Joan Seward*, and *Mrs Wheel*, both of whom attained the great age of 103. Besides the Church, there are four places of religious Worship in this town, for the respective denominations of Baptists, Presbyterians, Moravians, and Quakers, the Baptist Meeting House is a neat edifice. During the time of rebuilding the Church, divine service was performed in a contiguous building, anciently called the *Chapelle in the Forbury*, erected by Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the latter end of the thirteenth century. It was afterwards appropriated to the business of tuition, and thence called the *School-House*, but has of late years been converted into a regular *Theatre* ; it is a plain building, with pointed windows.

The PRIORY was situated to the north-east of the Church, on the little river Pinsley ; some of the buildings are yet standing : among them is the *Priory-House*, which has undergone various alterations

alterations since the Dissolution. Lord Coningsby had it fitted up as a County Gaol, he having purposed to procure the removal of the assizes from Hereford to this town. It was afterwards rented by the Corporation, and made a mansion-house for the Bailiff; but has since been converted into a *House of Industry* for the poor of the town. The north side, which has undergone the least alteration, has several lancet windows, and strong buttresses, which also support the angles at the east and west ends. The oil mill on the Priory Green, was the corn mill belonging to the Priory. An adjoining meadow, now called the Almetry Close, was the site of the *Almetry*, or *Almsbury*, a building from which the doles were delivered to the poor. The inmates of this Priory lived in considerable splendour. from a record of the time of Henry the Fourth, it appears that they had then as many as thirty-one servants. At the period of the Dissolution, their annual revenues amounted to 660*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* of which sum about 448*l.* was paid to the Abbot of Reading \*

The *Town Hall*, or *Butter Close*, as it is commonly termed, at Leonminster, is a singular building, constructed of timber and plaster about the year 1633. the architect was the celebrated John Abel, who built the Shire Hall at Hereford, and constructed the Mills during the siege of that city in the year of 1645.† This fabric stands on twelve oak pillars, now sustained on stone pedestals the brackets and spandrils of the arches above the pillars, and the upper parts of the building, display much carving. Numerous square and angular compartments are formed by the disposition of the beams at the sides and ends of the structure, which also exhibits various shields of arms of those who contributed to defray the expense of raising it. The weight of the roof was much lessened, and the whole fabric repaired, some years ago. The Quarter Sessions are held here, as well as the Assemblies of the Corporation. In the Council Chamber is a half-length portrait of SIR CHARLES HANBURY

\* Tanner's Notitia.

† See under Hereford, p. 457, (note,) and p. 490,

**HANBURY WILLIAMS**, Knight of the Bath, father to the last Countess of Essex: Sir Charles was chosen one of the representatives for this borough in 1751. A new and neat *Market-House*, for the sale of grain, was erected by the Corporation in the year 1803. it is a little building of the Tuscan order, with pediments and a cupola, standing in a small square to the eastward of the High Street. A new *Gaol* was built here about the year 1750.

Several improvements have been made in Leominster within the last fifteen or twenty years, but others are still wanting, and particularly the removal of the butchers' houses, near the Town-Hall. The trade of the town is flourishing, and many of the shops are very respectable, and well furnished. The clothing trade gives employment to a considerable number of the inhabitants, and the hat trade is also carried on to some extent. The wool grown in the neighbourhood is proverbially excellent \*. The cyder manufactured here is also held in much estimation and the hops are likewise in great repute.

The Corporation consists of a Bailiff, Chief Steward, Recorder, twenty-four capital Burgesses, a Chamberlain, two Serjeants at Mace, and some inferior officers. The first charter was granted by Queen Mary, but several others, comprising additional privileges, or confirming those already bestowed, have been given by succeeding Sovereigns. The Members of Parliament are chosen by the Corporation, and inhabitants paying scot and lot; the number of voters is about 500 the earliest return was made in the twenty-third year of Edward the First. An *Alms-House* for four decayed widows, each of whom have five pounds annually, has been endowed here by Mrs. Hester Clarke; and numerous other charitable benefactions have been made by different persons. The population of Leominster, as returned under the late act, amounted to 3019: the number of houses to 736. The site of the *CASTLE*, or *Palace*, mentioned by Leland, as belonging to Merwald, is supposed to be the mount to the eastward, which overlooks the Hay Lane.

BERRINGTON,

\* See page 425, 427.

**BERRINGTON**, about four miles north-eastward from **Leominster**, was the seat and manor of the late Right Hon. Thomas Harley, brother to the late Earl of Oxford, who was Member for this county in five succeeding Parliaments. The mansion, a square modern edifice, of white stone, is situated in a pleasant Park. the eminence to the south-east is covered with fine wood. on the north-east, near the angle of the roads leading to Eye and Brimfield, is the site of a small **CAMP**.\*

The manor of **ORLETON**, situated between five and six miles north from **Leominster**, was given by the Conqueror to Ranulph Mortimer, whose descendant, Edward the Fourth, held it distinct from the Crown lands, and had a particular seal, even after he was King, for the concerns of the Earldom of March, as appears from a charter of manumission granted to a villain of this place, bearing date 20th August, eighth of Edward IV. the seal of which is preserved entire, bearing the arms of Mortimer and Burgh quarterly, supported by lions rampant, and surmounted by a crown; with this inscription: *Sigillum Edwardi Quarti Dei Gra. Regis Anglie Francie Dni. Hibernie Comitatus sue Marchie.*† After Edward's death, the manor was annexed to the Crown, and was granted by James the First to George Hopton; from him it passed through several families to the *Blounts*, of whom Thomas Blount, Esq. was author of the '*Fragmenta Antiquitatis*,' or 'ancient Tenures and Customs of some Manors,' re-published by Mr. Josiah Beckwith, in 1784. He also wrote several other works, and made two folio volumes of Manuscript Collections for a History of Herefordshire. He died in December, 1679, and was buried in Orleton Church, with others of his family. **ADAM DE ORLETON**, successively Bishop of Hereford, Worcester, and Winchester, in the reigns of Edward the Second and Third, was a native of this place. His influence on the management of public affairs was very great; he was an active accomplice with Isabella and Mortimer in the deposition of Edward the Second, and, according to some, was author

\* Taylor's Map of Herefordshire.

† Gough's Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 455, from Blount's MSS.

thor of the famous enigmatical line, exciting to the murder of that King, or otherwise, according to the mode of pointing :

*Edwardum occidere, nolite ; timere bonum est.*

*Edwardum occidere, nolite timere ; bonum est.*

The charges brought against him in the following reign, he contrived, however, to evade ; and was afterwards appointed Ambassador to Philip, the French King, with whom he became a great favorite, and was, by his interest with the Pope, appointed to the See of Winchester, contrary to the wishes of his own Sovereign. Some years previous to his death, his eye-sight failed, and he had leisure, says his biographer, to ‘repent of his past disorders.’ He died at his Palace of Farnham, in 1345, and was buried in Winchester Cathedral.

About one mile south-east from Leominster is EATON, formerly the seat of the *Hackluyts*, of whom Walter de Hackluyt was High Sheriff of this county during the four first years of Edward the Second. the same office was also filled by several others of the family down to the time of Henry the Eighth. “The chief and ancientest of the Hackluyts,” says Leland, “have been gentlemen in tymes out of memory, they took their names of the forest of *Clud*, in Radnorshire, and they had a Castle and habitation not far from Radnor.” William Hackluyt, as appears from the same author, was at the Battle of Agincourt, and afterwards “set up a house” in this township : this mansion is now in ruins, and the Chapel belonging to it is a hop-kiln. Several of the Hackluyts lie buried at Leominster : of this family was Richard Hackluyt, the author of the Collection of Voyages which go under his name. The illustrious ADAM DE EATON, who was raised to the dignity of a Cardinal for his great learning, was a native of this township : He died at Rome, in the year 1397, much regretted. In February, 1800, a female, named MARGARET MAPPS, died at Eaton, at the great age of 110.

On the Brierley Hills, about two miles south-westward from Leominster, is IVINTON CAMP, a strong fortification, divided into two parts by a more modern entrenchment than the outer works.



works. This is supposed to be the Camp occupied by Owen Glendour, on his retreat before the army of Prince Henry. Many coins of the dates 1340, and 1390, have been found of late years in ploughing the interior parts.\*

In HOPE Church, which consists of a nave and chancel, built by the Coningsbies of Hampton Court, was buried SIR THOMAS CONINGSBY, Knt. the founder of Coningsby's Hospital, at Hereford, who died in May, 1652. HUMPHREY CONINGESBY, Esq. and ANNE, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Inglefield, Knt. were also interred here. Their effigies, with those of their seven children, are sculptured on a flat slab of alabaster in the chancel.

HAMPTON COURT, the principal seat of George Capel Coningsby, Earl of Essex, was built under the immediate auspices of Henry the Fourth, by his favorite, Sir Rowland Lenthall, who was Yeoman of the Robes to that Monarch. He "being a gallant fellow," says Leland, "either a daughter, or very near kinswoman, of the King's fell in love with him, and in continuance was wedded unto him; whereupon after, he fell into estimation, and had given to him 1000*l.* by the year, for the maintenance of him and his wife, and their heirs, among which landes he had Ludlow for one parte. This Lenthall was victorious at the battle of Agincourt, and toke many prisoners there, by which prey he beganne the new buildings of Hampton Court, and brought from an hll a springe of water, and made a little pool within the top of his House."† The lady alluded to in this extract, appears to have been a co heiress of Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel. How the estate descended is not clearly recorded; but Camden mentions it as having been "for some time possessed by the *Coningsbies*, a famous family in these parts," and who purchased it of the Cornewalls, Barons of Burford. Frances, the daughter of Thomas Earl Coningsby, married Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, Knt. of the Bath their daughter Charlotte married William Anne Holles Capel,

\* Price's Leominster, p. 25, note.

† Itin. Vol. V. p. 66. See also Vol. VII. p. 152.

Capel, fourth Earl of Essex, whose son George, the fifth Earl of this family,\* is now possessor in right of his mother.

The Mansion at Hampton Court is a large magnificent structure, situated on a spacious lawn, of nearly 100 acres, and protected on the north-east by an eminence covered with luxuriant foliage. About a quarter of a mile to the south-west flows the river Lugg, which, at some distance below the house, is joined by a beautiful little stream, that rises in the hills about Lockley Heath, and meanders through the Park in a south-westerly direction. This noble pile partakes partly of the castellated, and partly of the monastic character. The buildings surround a quadrangular court; having a grand square entrance tower in the centre of the north front; and at each extremity, another and smaller tower, the most eastern of which unites with the Chapel. The entrance tower is deeply embattled, and machicolated on both its faces. It is to be regretted, that much of this curious old Mansion was destroyed by incongruous alterations, began about the time of William the Third, and continued during the succeeding reigns. but in the various improvements that have since taken place, the building has been in part judiciously restored to its pristine character.† The interior is commodious, and many of the apartments are fitted up with great taste.

During the life of the late Lady Coningsby, Hampton Court was remarkable for much of the ancient furniture that constituted the magnificence of the nobility two centuries ago. One of the apartments, furnished in a splendid manner, with crimson damask hangings, and bed and canopy of the same, remains precisely in the same state as when used by William the Third, who here visited Thomas, Baron Coningsby, a nobleman particularly distinguished for his bravery at the Battles of the Boyne and Aghrim in

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Ireland.

\* Some additional particulars of the Capel family will be inserted under the description of Cashiobury, in Hertfordshire.

† In the Vitruvius Britannicus are some plans and views of Hampton Court, by Campbell, who was the first architect employed to give these venerable walls a modern air.

Ireland. In the Library is an ebony casket, upon the lid of which are miniatures of the above Monarch and Lord Coningsby, copied with much taste from large pictures, by the present Lady Essex. Contained in this box is the *Handkerchief* applied by Lord Coningsby to the wound received by King William at the Battle of the Boyne. This relique may still be honored, as it immediately refers to an event which every lover of his country will reflect on with gratitude—the glorious Revolution of 1688.

Among the very valuable paintings preserved in this mansion, are some interesting pieces by C. Jansen, Holbein, Vandyck, Lely, Kneller, and Reynolds. One of the most famous among the old pictures was engraved by Vertue, and is said by Walpole to be an “undoubted original” of *Henry the Fourth*. Depending from the neck is a chain and medallion, on which are depicted the arms of the Fitz-Alans, Earls of Arundel; and beneath is the following inscription. “HENRY IV, King of England; who laid the first stone of this house, and left this picture in it, when he gave it to Lenthal, who sold it to Cornwall of Burford, who sold it to the ancestors of the Lord Coningesby, in the reign of Henry VI.” The *Chapel* still retains traces of its pristine appearance: the roof is of timber-work, displaying many carved ornaments peculiar to the pointed style, and has various whimsical figures dispersed over it. Several of the windows contain painted glass in various stages of decay: the arms of Lenthall and others are yet entire.

The scenery around this mansion is in a high degree picturesque and beautiful. The Park is between seven and eight miles in circumference; and contains some fine timber. During the floods which frequently occur here in a rainy season, a fine cascade is formed by the rushing of the waters over a mass of broken rock. Near the house is a good shrubbery, intersected by a pleasant walk. More distant is a neat residence for the Steward; and at the entrance of the Park is a very handsome Lodge in the rustic style.

DYNMORE HILL is a very considerable eminence, rising to the south-west of Hampton Court, and commanding some extensive prospects over the surrounding country. Though not in general

so steep as other eminences in this county, the ascent is in some places very abrupt. The northern view is extremely rich, being varied with slopes of foliage, intermixed with fine meadows, and cultivated grounds, and bounded by distant mountains: on the opposite side, the descent commences with irregular declivities, and romantic breaks, occasioned by quarries, these form the foreground of a prospect composed of the venerable mansion at Burghope, Burghill covered with wood, and a very great extent of flat country, stretching to the south and south-west, where the view is terminated by Skerrid or Scar, and the Black Mountains of Brecknockshire. "The Hill of *Dinesmore*," says Leland, "is very steep, high, and well-wooded, and a *specula* to see all the country about. Ther stondeth a litle by west of the very toppe on the left hand as I rode, a *Commandry*, (PRECEPTORY,) with a fair place that belonged to the Knights of St. John of Hierusalem in London;" to whom, as appears from Tanner, it had been given, by a Brother of the Order, in the time of Henry the Second. The lands of this foundation became part of the estate of Earl Comingsby; and are still, we believe, belonging to his descendant, the Earl of Essex.

BURGHOPPE HOUSE, formerly the seat of the ancient families of Goodyere and Dineley, but now going fast to decay, has ancient mullioned windows, with projecting pointed gables, and curious picturesque chimnies. Sir John Dineley, the last Baronet of this family, sold it to Governor Peachey, now Lord Selsey, about thirty years ago.

About one mile to the north of BURGHILL are vestiges of an ancient tract, called the *Poitwuy*, pointing towards Kenchester. On the summit of Burghill itself, are the remains of a square CAMP; and three miles distant, to the north-west, is another square CAMP, somewhat larger, about a mile from Canon-Pyon.

At WARMESLEY was a PRIORY of Augustine Canons, of the order of St. Victor, founded by Gilbert Talbot, in the time of King John, and dedicated to St. Leonard de Pionia. Its revenues, at the period of the Dissolution, were valued at the annual sum of 83l. 10s. 2d. Henry the Eighth exchanged the site of the Priory for other lands, with Edward, Lord Clinton.

At **MONKLAND**, or **MONKLOW**, was a small **CELL** of **BENEDICTINES**, subordinate to St. Peter's Abbey, at Conches, in Normandy, to which the Manor and Church had been given by Ralph Toni the Elder in the time of William Rufus. On the suppression of the Alien Priories, this estate was granted, by Henry the Fifth, to Sir Rowland Lenthall, and Edward Windsor.

### WEOBLEY,

An ancient corporate and market-town, formed part of the Barony of the *Lacies*, from whom, by a female, it was conveyed in marriage to the *Verdons*, who, by that alliance, were for some time Hereditary Constables of Ireland. It afterwards passed through various families to the Devereux', Earls of Essex, and formed their principal lordship. On the south side of the town stood an old **CASTLE**, which was taken from the Empress Maud by King Stephen. Leland mentions it as a goodly and fine building, but somewhat in decay.\* The *Church* is spacious, and strong built; and contains two or three ancient burial Chapels. Some of the Verdons appear to have been buried here. The earliest return to Parliament from this town, was in the twenty-third of Edward the First: the right of voting is possessed by the owners of the ancient burgage houses, resident at the time of election, or by the inhabitants of such houses who have been resident forty days. the number of voters is about forty-five. This town is governed by Constables, who act as returning officers. The population of this parish, as returned under the Act of 1801, amounted to 608; the number of houses to 160.

In **SARNSFIELD Church-yard** is the tomb-stone of **JOHN ABEL**, the celebrated architect of the Market Houses of Hereford, Leominster, Kington, and Brecknock, who died at the age of ninety-seven, in the year 1694. This stone displays his own effigies, kneeling, together with those of his two wives, and the emblems of his profession, the rule, the compass, and the square. it was  
designed

designed and sculptured by himself; the epitaph was also of his own writing, and runs thus :

This craggy stone a covering is for an architector's bed,  
That lofty buildings raised high, yet now lyes low his head,  
His line and rule, so death concludes, are locked up in store :  
Build they who list, or they who wist, for he can build no more.

His house of clay could hold no longer,  
May Heaven's joy build him a stronger.

• JOHN ABEL

*Vive ut vivas in vitam eternam.*

About two miles south-eastward from Sarnsfield, is the celebrated eminence called LADY-LIFT, from the summit of which the prospects burst upon the view with uncommon grandeur and sublimity. The vast extent of country which is here spread out before the sight, the great diversity and variety of its features, now swelling into bold hills mantled with rich woods, and again declining into luxuriant vales teeming with fertility, and animated by a thousand springs, the numerous orchards, corn-fields, hop-grounds, and meadows, intermingled with castles, seats, and villages, and bounded by a bold range of distant mountains, all unite in the composition of a scene which the powers of language are as incompetent to describe, as the art of the pencil is inadequate to delineate.

The Lady-Lift, with a long extent of beautiful grounds to the south-east, compose a part of the charming demesne of FOXLEY, the seat of Uvedale Price, Esq. the celebrated author of 'Essays on the Picturesque' This gentleman is descended from Judge Price, who married the surviving heiress of the Rodds, by which he became possessor of this manor. Sir James Rodd, Knt. was High Sheriff of this county in the twenty-first of James the First; as was also Robert Rodd, Esq. in the reign of Charles the Second. The approach to Foxley from the village of Mansel-Lacy, is carried near the broken banks of a winding rivulet, that flows through the valley between the Foxley and Wormesley Hills, which rise to a considerable elevation, and are covered with fine trees, forming a kind of woody

amphitheatre round the mansion. This is a square and plain structure of brick, situated on the declivity of the westernmost eminence, and commanding some beautiful views over the Vale of Hereford; the distance being formed by various hills retiring in perspective, and the fore-ground by rich masses of wood. Most of the apartments are elegantly fitted up, and decorated with a good collection of paintings, by the first masters. Among them is an Old Man's Head, by Titian; a fine head of OLD PARR, supposed by Rubens; a large Battle Piece, by Berghem exceedingly well colored; a Storm at Sea, by Vandervelde; and an upright picture of Ruins and Statues. From the house, a ride of about two miles on the side of the eminence, conducts through the grounds and plantations to the summit of the Lady-Lift, the views from which form a most delightful close to the picturesque and interesting scenery of this desirable abode. The beautiful woods of Foxley were chiefly planted by the late Mr. Price; but the improvements made both in the woods and grounds by the present possessor, most eminently display his superior knowledge in the difficult science of landscape gardening.

GARNONS, the seat of J. G. Cotterel, Esq. is finely situated on the south-western acclivity of Bishopstone Hill, and commands various extensive and rich prospects, in which the river Wye forms a principal feature. The grounds are ornamented with some extensive and flourishing plantations.

MONNINGTON was the property and seat of an ancient family of that name, who derived it from their residence on this spot, and one of whom married a daughter of the famous Owen Glendour: this chieftain is traditionally represented to have sought refuge, and to have been buried here.\* The manor is now the property of Sir George A. Cornwall, Bart. of Moccas.

CREDENHILL is a very high and steep eminence, crowned by a vast CAMP, surrounded by almost inaccessible works, and forming a very conspicuous object for many miles round. Its apex, which composes the area of the Camp, includes an extent of about  
forty

\* See under Wigmore, p. 556.

forty acres, bounded by a double ditch and rampart. From the irregularity of its form, the origin of this strong post has been attributed to the Britons; but Dr. Salmon supposes it to be Roman, and used by them as an exploratory camp for the defence of the city beneath at Kenchester. The works are broken in many places, and the ditches partly obscured. The view from the summit of the Camp is one of the most extensive in Herefordshire, and equally beautiful. The declivity of the hill itself is finely covered with wood, which gives it a very grand effect; and particularly when viewed from the south, where its continuity of line is broken by several deep ravines. Three hundred fine oaks were lately cut down on this eminence, for the use of the navy.

Between one and two miles from Credenhill is the site of the Roman Town of KENCHESTER, the MAGNA of the Itinerary, which the judicious Horsley was the first to remove to this station from Old Radnor, where it had been erroneously fixed by Camden. The distances, as well as the general regularity observed in the course of the Itinerary, perfectly accord in support of this opinion; and the etymology of the appellation *Kenchester* itself, from *Ken*, or *Kyn*, first, or chief, and *Chester*, from *Cestre*, equivalent to the Roman *Castra*, appears equally in favor of this being the real MAGNA CASTRA.

“ KENCHESTER,” says Leland, “ standith a 3 mile or more above Hereford, upward on the same side of the river that Hereford doth; yet is yt almost a mile from the ripe of Wye. This towne is far more auncient than Hereford, and was celebrated yn the Romans’ time, as apperith by many thinges, and especially by antique money of the Cæsars, very often found within the towne, and in ploughing aboute, the which the people there call *Dwarfes Money*. The cumpace of Kenchester hath been by estimacion as much as Hereford, excepting the Castle, the whiche at Hereford is very spacious. Pieces of the walls and turrets yet appear *prope fundamenta*; and more should have appeared, if the people of Herford town, and other thereabout, had not in tyme past pulled down much, and picked out of the best for their buildings.—By likelihood men of old time went from Kenchester to Hay, and so



to Breknok and Carmardin. The place wher the towne was is all overgrown with brambles, hazles, and like shrubs. Nevertheless, here and there yet appear ruins of buildings, of the whiche the foolish people caull on (one) the *King of Feyres Chayre*. Ther hath been found *nostra memoria latexes Britannici, et ex eisdem canales, aquæ ductus, tessellata pavimenta, fragmentum catenulæ aureæ, calcar ex argento*, byside other straunge thinges.”\*

The form of this station is an irregular hexagon, inclining to a parallelogram. the area is raised about four or five feet above the level of the adjacent country, and was formerly surrounded by a wall, the foundations of which may yet be traced, though overgrown with hedges, and fruit and timber trees. The south-west and south sides are the highest: the road that runs by the side of the former, seems to occupy the site of a ditch; but no appearance of any is visible on the other sides. Numerous inequalities, arising from the foundations, vaults, and ruins of buildings, overspread the area; and great numbers of Roman coins, bricks, leaden pipes, urns, burnt wheat, and large bones, have been dug up here. Towards the east end is a massive fragment remaining of what is supposed to have been a Roman Temple it consists of a large mass of cement of almost indissoluble texture, in which are embedded rough stones, irregularly intermixed with others that have been squared. This fragment is called the Chair, from a niche which is yet perfect: the arch is principally constructed with Roman bricks; and over it are three layers of the same materials, disposed lengthways. Here, in 1669, a Tesselated Pavement and stone floor were discovered; and in the succeeding year, according to Aubrey's Manuscripts, buildings of Roman brick were found, on which oaks grew.† About the same time Sir John Hoskyns discovered an Hypocaust, about seven feet square, the flues of which were of brick, three inches square, artificially let into one another.‡ Another Tesselated Pavement, of a finer pattern, was found about seventy years ago, but soon destroyed by the ignorant vulgar.

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\* Itin. Vol. V. p. 66.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II p. 449.

‡ Ibid.

An aqueduct, or drain, of considerable extent, with the bottom entire, was also opened here about twenty years ago; and various other vestiges of the ancient consequence of this city are very frequently found. The entrances appear to have been on the east, west, north and south sides. About two furlongs to the north runs a small brook; and about twice that distance to the south, flows the river Wye. The course of the roads connecting with this station have already been described.\*

Three miles southward from Kenchester, and on the opposite side of the Wye, is the little village of MADLEY, formerly the site of a CASTLE, of which the only memorial is the name of *Castle Farm*. Near the centre of the village is a small *Cross*, consisting of a square pedestal and shaft, with a transverse top. In the Church-yard are remains of another Cross. The Church is spacious, and has a crypt, now used as a Charnel House, beneath the Chancel.

On the banks of the Wye, about half a mile from LOWER EATON, the pleasant residence of the Rev. Mr. Phillips, is EATON CAMP, a large ancient entrenchment, with a single ditch and rampart, in good preservation the area, which is cultivated, contains between thirty and forty acres.

At SUGWAS, on the opposite side of the Wye, was a *Palace* and *Chapel* belonging to the Bishops of Hereford. This was the favorite residence of Bishop Cantilupe, and was last inhabited by Bishop Ironsides, at the conclusion of the seventeenth century. The Palace has been long converted into a farm-house. the Chapel was taken down in 1792, when a handsome dwelling was erected on the spot.†

BELMONT, the pleasant seat of — Matthews, Esq. is about one mile below Eaton Camp, on a fine ascent, close to the banks of the Wye. The prospects are very rich and beautiful they include a great extent of country, diversified by hills, finely wooded; and terminated on one side by the distant mountains of Radnorshire,

\* See p. 406.

† Price's Hereford, p. 139.

shire; and on the other, by the Malvern Hills of Worcestershire. The mansion is an elegant building of Bath-stone, erected from the designs of Mr. Wyatt, between the years 1788 and 1790. The interior is fitted up with much taste, and contains some valuable pictures. The grounds are ornamented by some recent but flourishing plantations.

About four miles north-eastward from Hereford, is SUTTON WALLS, celebrated as the site of the *Palace* of Offa, King of the Mercians, where the unsuspecting Ethelbert was treacherously murdered,\*

—when to th' unhallow'd feast  
Of Mercian Offa he invited came,  
To treat of spousals.—

PHILIPS'S CYDER.

Giraldus Cambriensis, in his life of St. Ethelbert, speaks of this place by the name of *King's Sutton*, and *South-town Walls*, and mentions some ruins of a Castle which he saw here. Leland also notices the “notable ruins of some auneyent and great building, sumtyme the mansion of King Offa, at such time as Kenchestre stood, or els Herford was a begynning” *Sutton Walls* comprehends a spacious ENCAMPMENT on the summit of a hill, surrounded by a single rampart, with entrances to the north and south. The area includes about thirty acres, and is nearly level, excepting towards the centre, where there is a low place, called *Offa's Cellar* in digging on this spot, a silver ring, of an antique form, was found some years ago.†

Sutton is included in the extensive manor of MARDEN, which was an ancient demesne belonging to the Crown, but given by King Offa to the Canons of Hereford, then termed the Presbytery of Marden, in expiation of the murder of Ethelbert. *Marden Church* was built over the spot where Ethelbert was first buried, and where a well, which still exists, and is still called *St. Ethelbert's Well*, is said to have miraculously sprung up. This edifice

was

\* See under Hereford, p. 459.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 446.

was dedicated to his memory, and stands within forty yards of the river Lugg. This neighbourhood abounds with good orchards, and the cyder is particularly celebrated.

About six miles from Marden, to the north-east, is **PENCOMB**; the Lord of the manor of which claims a pair of gilt spurs, as an herriot, from the estate of every Mayor of Hereford who dies in his Mayoralty.\*

On an eminence at **PISBURY**, above Hampton Court Park, are vestiges of a large **CAMP**, forming one of a continued chain of Encampments crossing this country in a north-east direction. At **UPPERTON**, above Docklow, is a second, but smaller **CAMP**. At **NETHERTON**, about one mile and a half to the south-east, is a third and more considerable **CAMP**. At **BIRDENBURY**, still further to the south-east, a fourth **CAMP**. and four miles north-eastward from that, near Thornbury, a fifth **CAMP**, on the summit of **WALL HILL**.

**NETHERWOOD**, an extensive manor on the north-east side of Wall Hill, in Thornbury Parish, was part of the estate of the Mortimers, of whom **ROGER MORTIMER**, Earl of March, was a native of this place.† After the Battle of Bosworth Field, William Baskervyle, of the house of Erdesley, who had accompanied the army of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh, from Leominster, and fought valiantly in his cause, received a grant of it from that Sovereign. In the following century it was sold by Thomas Baskerville, Esq. and having passed through several families, was purchased, about the time of Charles the First, by Edward Pytts, Esq. whose descendant, John Pytts, Esq. of Kyre House, is now owner. The mansion is recorded to have been a noble structure, and was surrounded by a Park of nearly 1000 acres. In the former was born the great, but unfortunate, **ROBERT DEVEREUX**, Earl of Essex, Queen Elizabeth's favorite and victim. This nobleman was the son of Walter, Earl of Essex, and Viscount Hereford. He was educated at Cambridge, and succeeded his guardian, the great

\* Blount's Tenures.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II p 459.

great Lord Burleigh, in the Chancellorship of that University. In 1585, he accompanied the Earl of Leicester, who had married his mother, to Holland, where he obtained the rank of General, and was greatly distinguished for his bravery at the battle of Zutphen. After his return to England, he was introduced at court, and rose very rapidly in the estimation of the Queen; whose affection he would probably have retained, if his high spirit could have submitted to the endurance of her caprices, or his indignation been less permanent. During his short-lived prosperity, he was entrusted with various important commands, in all of which he displayed great abilities and valor, but not sufficient prudence, arising, probably, from immaturity of judgment. Frank and ingenuous in his nature, he wanted art to discover, and to counteract, the base dissimulation of his enemies, who, envious of his high fortune, stimulated him to those fatal extremities which proved his ruin, and to which the warmth of his natural temper too violently hurried him. "He seemed," says Granger, "to think it a prostitution of his dignity to put up an affront from the Queen herself, and was as honest and open in his enmity, as he was sincere in his friendship." He was beheaded on Tower Hill, in the year 1600-1, at the age of thirty-three or thirty-four.

### BROMYARD

Is a small market town, irregularly built, and badly paved—nearly half the buildings are of wood, and very small the others are of red brick, of modern construction. The *Church* stands on the north east side, and is of Saxon origin the south Doorway has the zig-zag and other ornaments, above it is a Cross, and the figure of St. Peter in relief. This structure is now undergoing repairs; the pillars of the nave have been heightened, to support a new roof; but the original capitals are preserved. Several semicircular arches appear above the wainscoting in the side aisles of the nave. In the north transept is an altar-tomb in memory of a *Knight* of the Baskerville family, whose effigies is sculptured on the slab. At the east end is a tomb in memory of PHINEAS JACKSON,

JACKSON, vicar of Bromyard, who died in November, 1681; having made various small bequests for charitable purposes in this town and neighbourhood. The population of Bromyard township, in 1801, was returned at 983, the number of houses at 242. The river Frome passes within a short distance to the east of this town; and several smaller streams flow on the north and west sides.

The roads from Bromyard to the south are extremely indifferent, but the country is exceedingly beautiful, being variegated with woody eminences, teeming orchards, rich meadows, and flourishing corn-fields. The villages are very inconsiderable, mostly consisting of a few scattered houses adjacent to a small Church. On the Roman Road at STRETTON GRANDISON, are traces of a square CAMP, where Mr. Baxter, apparently on insufficient authority, has placed the *Circuitio* of Ravennas.

STOKE, or STOKE-EDITH, the principal seat of the *Foleys*, in this county, derives the latter part of its name from the dedication of the Church to St. Editha, daughter of King Egbert. In the time of the Edwards Second and Third, it was the property of the *Wallwaysns*, but previously to the reign of Henry the Eighth, it had passed from that family, and in the time of that Sovereign, it came into the possession of Sir John Lingeiu, by marriage with the heiress of the *Milwaters*. His descendants sold it to Paul Foley, Esq. about the time of Charles the Second, and it continued to be the chief seat of the younger house of the Foleys till the extinction of the elder branch, at Whitley, in Worcestershire, when the late Lord Foley removed thither, and this estate was left to his second son, the Hon. Edward Foley. The Mansion is a spacious brick building, with wings, erected soon after the estate was purchased into this family, and standing in a very pleasant Park, on a kind of terrace. The Hall displays some fine painting, by Sir James Thornhill, and in the other apartments, which are fitted up with taste, is a good collection of family portraits. The Park and grounds are well-wooded, and display some very fine scenery, which has been considerably improved within the last twelve or fifteen years, under the direction of Mr. Repton. The shrubberies are extensive, and the Park is stocked with deer.

About

About a mile and a half from this Mansion, on the south-west, and occupying the summit of a commanding eminence, is **ST. ETHELBERT'S CAMP**, said, by popular tradition, to be the spot where Ethelbert pitched his tents when on his journey to the Court of King Offa.

On the west side of the same eminence is **SUFTON COURT**, which formed part of the Honour of Earl Ferrers, and is remarkable from having been the residence of the ancient family of the *Herefords*, from the seventh of Henry<sup>the</sup> Third, till about the year 1786, when its late possessor, Sir James Hereford, bequeathed it to his nephew, who has since assumed the name of Hereford by the King's license. This gentleman has erected a handsome Mansion of Bath stone, a few hundred yards from the site of the old house, and in a more elevated situation. The ancient residence is, however, yet standing, though somewhat ruinous; and, together with the old furniture, is preserved with care. Here also the grounds have undergone considerable alteration under the plastic hands of Mr. Repton. Blount's Manuscripts record, that the family of Hereford held this manor, by the service of presenting the King with a pair of gilt spurs whenever he should ride over Mordesford Bridge.

**LONGWORTH**, the seat of James Walwyn, Esq. whose predecessors have frequently had the honor of representing the city of Hereford in Parliament, and filling the office of High Sheriff for the county, is situated between one and two miles from Sufton, on the opposite side of the river Frome. This family derives its name from Gwallain Castle, in Pembrokeshire. Sir Peter Gwallain was engaged in the conquest of Brecknockshire, with the army of William Rufus, and for his services had certain lands assigned him at the Hay, in that county, and which are still denominated *Wallwayn's Rents*. Thomas Wallwayn, who died in the fifth of Henry the Fifth, bequeathed Longworth to William, his younger son, whose descendants have ever since continued to reside here. The Mansion was rebuilt a few years ago, and fitted up with much elegance. The apartments are decorated with some good pictures; and the Library contains a select and valuable collection of books. The grounds display some fine timber, and the scenery is pleasant.

**MORDESFORD,**

MORDESFORD, a small place near the junction of the Lugg with the river Wye, is celebrated in traditional history, as the scene of a furious combat between a *winged Serpent*, and a malefactor who had been sentenced to die, but was promised his pardon, on condition of destroying the wily monster. The abode of this animal is said to have been a neighbouring woody steep. his depredations were great and alarming; man and beast were alike subjected to his ravages; and no one could be found sufficiently hardy to attempt his destruction, till the love of liberty and life, invigorated a condemned criminal to engage in the perilous enterprize. The serpent, proceeds the tale, was wont to resort to a particular spot near the confluence of the above rivers, to slake his thirst; and here the assault was made, the man having previously concealed himself near the water-side. The contest was of some continuance, but was at last terminated by the destruction of the fell ravager; whose poisonous breath, however, proved fatal to the valorous champion, and bereaved him of life in the moment of victory. In memory of this event, a large green dragon, with expanded wings, and web-footed, is painted on the east end of Mordesford Church. A variation in the traditional account, represents the monster thus slain as amphibious, and as having been left upon the banks after a considerable flood.

Another marvellous occurrence connected with this quarter of Herefordshire, took place in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when MARCLEY HILL, according to Camden, whose judgment was in this instance imposed on, "rose as it were from sleep, and for three days, moved on its vast body with an horrible noise, driving every thing before it to an *higher* ground."\* Fuller asserts, that the whole field that moved was twenty acres, and that it travelled fourteen hours, and ascended eleven fathoms up hill, leaving a chasm 400 feet wide, and 520 long.† Sir Richard Baker, who delighted in recording the wonderful, has thus detailed the particulars of this event in his 'Chronicle of England.'

"In

\* Gough's Translation, Vol. II. p. 445.

† Worthies, Herefordshire



“ In the thirteenth year of Queen Elizabeth, a prodigious earthquake happened in the east parts of Herefordshire, at a little town called KINNASTON. On the seventeenth of February, at six o'clock in the evening, the earth began to open, and a hill, with a rock under it, making at first a great bellowing noise, which was heard a great way off, lifted itself up, and began to travel, bearing along with it the trees that grew upon it, the sheep-folds and flocks of sheep abiding there at the same time. In the place from whence it was first moved, it left 'a gaping distance, forty foot broad, and fourscore ells long. the whole field was about twenty acres. Passing along, it overthrew a Chapel standing in the way, removed a yew tree planted in the Church-yard, from the west to the east: with the like force it thrust before it highways, sheep-folds, hedges, and trees; made tilled ground pasture, and again turned pasture into tillage. Having walked in this sort from Saturday evening till Monday noon, it then stood still.”

In Taylor's Map of Herefordshire, the spot of ground whose motion gave rise to these various relations, is named WONDER; and, according to present appearances, was nothing more than a *Land-slip*, arising probably from causes similar to those which occasioned the like phenomenon at Pitlands, in the Isle of Wight, in February, 1799.\* The land that moved, seems to have been about two acres, but its motion was certainly agreeable to the common laws of gravitation. The yew tree is still existing; and the Chapel bell was dug up a few years ago.

MUCH-MARCLE,<sup>c</sup> or GREAT MARCLE, was part of the barony of the Lacies at the period of the Domesday Survey; but afterwards coming to the Crown, was granted, by Edward the First, to Edmund Mortimer, whose descendants inherited it till the time of the last Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, who demised it to the Wallwayns; but it has since passed through various families. Near the Church, says Blount, ‘ stood MORTIMER'S CASTLE, the site visible, and another, perhaps, more ancient, called ELLINGHAM CASTLE, the site overgrown with wood, and called the Quarry Wood;

\* See under Pitlands, p. 400.

Wood,' at a little distance from the village. Some ancient but mutilated effigies within the Church, were supposed, by the same author, to represent **BLANCHE**, daughter of Roger Mortimer, and wife to John Lord Audley, temp. Richard the Second; and the great **ROGER MORTIMER**, executed at the Elms, in Smithfield, and **JOAN**, his lady, daughter of Peter de Genevil. In a small Chapel, built here by **SIR JOHN KYRLE**, Bart. is the tomb of himself, and his lady **SIBYLLA**.

About one mile and a half north-west from Ledbury, is a conical eminence, called **WALL HILLS**, the lower part of which is surrounded by large trees, and the summit crowned by a spacious **CAMP**. The area comprehends between thirty and forty acres, now appropriated to the growth of corn and hops. The single rampart which inclosed this Camp, is half levelled: it had three entrances, one of them called the King's Gate. In ploughing the area, spear and arrow-heads have been found, together with brass coins, horse-shoes of an antique form, and human bones.

### LEDBURY

Is an ancient market and borough town, situated on a declivity within a small valley, formed by the Dog-Hill, and other eminences, and about one mile west from the river Loddon, from which it derives the first syllable of its name. It chiefly consists of two streets, crossing each other at right angles: the principal street runs north and south, and has a middle row near the old *Market-House*, which is elevated on strong oak pillars, and composed of timber and lath plastered and white-washed; the beams being colored black. This mode of building predominates in the more ancient parts of the town; and many of the houses have projecting stories: the modern houses are of red brick, and respectable. The pavement, even in the High Street, is extremely bad, and full of inequalities; the small stones that form it, being pressed into the stiff clay, which is the general kind of soil in this part of the county.

Ledbury formerly belonged to the See of Hereford, to which it was given by a Saxon named Edwin, who imagined himself cured of the palsy through the intercession of St. Ethelbert. Bishop Bohun procured the charter of a market for this manor from King Stephen, to be held on Saturdays; but this falling into disuse, Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1584, granted a new charter for a Tuesday market, and two annual fairs; the tolls to be given to the poor. This borough had once the privilege of sending two Members to Parliament, but afterwards surrendered its right, on the plea of inability to support them.

The Church is a large building, of Saxon origin, but has undergone many alterations at different periods. Bishop Trevenant made it collegiate about the year 1401, establishing here a Master, or Deacon, and eight secular Priests, besides Clerks and other servants: the College was dissolved in the first of Edward the Sixth: the Deacon's lodgings is now the *School-House*, on the north side of the Church. This structure consists of a nave, side aisles, and chancel; a *Chapel*, dedicated to St. Catherine; and a detached tower, terminated by a finely-proportioned spire, about sixty feet high. The west front has a curious Saxon *Door-way*, having semicircular mouldings ornamented with zig-zag, and resting on three pillars on each side, having capitals ornamented with masks and foliage. The west windows of the nave and side aisles, are high, and pointed; having strong buttresses between them, bounded by pillars, and terminating in turrets. The north porch is handsome: the upper part of the tower, which stands on this side, has been re-built; the spire was probably raised at the same time. The nave has octagon pillars with pointed arches; and was divided from the chancel by a very beautiful carved screen, half of which has been removed, to make room for a seat for one of the *Portunaries*,\* or Impropriators. The chancel appears to

\* "The Church has two sinecure Rectors, called *Portionaries*, because they change their portion of tythes, and other returns, every third year: they are in the Bishop's gift, and receive institution and induction, and these two alternately nominate the vicar." *Gough's Camden*.

to have formed part of the original building, and display several short massive columns, with semicircular arches: several of the ancient stalls are remaining here. On the north side is the Chapel of St. Catherine;\* this is nearly square, and has five pointed windows, the mullions of which spread into rich ramifications, the whole being adorned with rosettes. The windows have been decorated with painted glass, as well as others in different parts of the Church; but the whole is now reduced to confused fragments. Numerous Sepulchral memorials are contained in this fabric: among them are several ancient and curious tombs, but greatly mutilated. In the north aisle is the defaced effigies of a Lady, unknown, lying on an altar-tomb, richly ornamented with arches and shields; and having the broken remains of a canopy, on which are other shields, bearing three lions passant. In the chancel are the effigies, in alabaster, of EDWARD SKYNNER, Gent. of Ledbury, his wife, and ten children. The former died in 1631, at the age of eighty-seven, having survived his lady, (who died at the age of eighty-three years.) Robert Skinner, Bishop of Worcester, and the late Lord Chief Justice Baron Skinner, were of this family. In the south aisle is the burial-place of the *Biddulph* family: it contains eight monuments, the most elaborate of which was erected to the memory of MICHAEL BIDDULPH, Esq. of Crofton Hall, Worcestershire. Among the other memorials, is an inscription, recording the inter-

P p 2

ment

\* " Katherine Audley, or, as she is commonly called, St. Katherine, was a religious woman in the reign of Edward the Second, and had a maid called Mabel, and not being fixed in any settled place, she had a revelation, that she should not set up her rest till she came to a town where the bells should ring of themselves. She and her maid coming near Ledbury, heard the bells ring, though the Church doors were shut, and no ringers there. Here then she determined to spend the remainder of her days, and built an Hermitage, living on herbs, and sometimes on milk. The King, in consideration of her birth or piety, or both granted her an annuity of 30l. Rex præcepit vicecomiti Hereford quod omnes terras et tenementa quæ fuerunt Petri de Limesey in Monyton & Driew caperentur in manum regis, & quo de exitibus eorundem solveret annuatim Caterinæ de Audley reclusæ de Ledbury 30, li." " Pat. 2. H. IV. p. 3, 14, 15." *Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 456.*

ment of JAMES BAILY, of Ledbury, who died in December, 1674, "aged 100 years and eight months. He was younger brother to Humphry Baily, of Ocul Pychard, and of Samuel Baily, late of Hereford. These three brothers lived the age of three hundred years: what one wanted, the other made up. *Mors rapit omnia.*" Here also is an inscription in memory of ANNE, wife of Ambrose Elton, Esq. of the Hazel, and daughter of Sir Edward Ashton, Knt. and Bart. She died on the fifth of February, 1660, having had seventeen children, of whom she lived to see eleven married; and of their issue more than 120 persons.

An *Hospital*, in honour of St. Catherine, was founded here by Bishop Foliot, about the year 1232, for six single men, two men and their wives, and two widows. At the Dissolution, the revenues of this establishment were valued at 32l. 7s. 11d. annually. Queen Elizabeth re-founded it for a Master, seven poor widowers, and three poor women, each to be allowed 6l. 13s. 4d. annually; besides clothes and firing.\* This allowance has been since augmented to five shillings weekly. The Hospital is a very ancient timber and plaster building, standing near the Market-House: the Chapel is also ancient, but plain. the windows exhibit fragments of painted glass. A *Free-School*, partly supported by rents issuing from dissolved Chantry lands, established in the Church previous to the Reformation, and a Charity School, have been founded here; besides several Alms-Houses; and numerous benefactions have been given for the use of the poor. The clothing trade was at one period very flourishing; but the principal business now carried on here, is the manufacture of ropes, lines, and sacks for meal. Great quantities of cyder are manufactured in this neighbourhood; and the cyder trade is very flourishing. The inhabitants of Ledbury, as ascertained under the Act of 1801, amounted to 3058; the number of houses was 618. The Bishops of Hereford had a Palace here.

On the well-wooded eminence called the Dog-Hill, to the north of Ledbury, is HOPE END, a small but very pleasant seat, belonging to Sir Harry Vane Tempest, Bart.

About

\* Tanner's Notitia.

About two miles southward from Ledbury, and east from Dinington, is the VINEYARD CAMP, the works of which have been almost defaced by the plough: the area is cultivated.

In the *Church* belonging to the beautifully situated village of EASTNOR, are several handsome monuments of statuary marble, for various individuals of the Cocks family. One of them, in memory of JOSEPH COCKS, Esq. who died in 1775, at the age of forty-two, was executed by Stewart and Scheemaker, and exhibits the bust of the deceased, with other sculptures. Another, by the same artists, is erected to the memory of MRS. MARY COCKS, and displays a figure of Hope, with a rich urn, and a boy inverting a torch. A third, and very neat monument, commemorates the name of JOHN COCKS, Esq. nephew to the great Lord Somers: he died in 1771.

Near Eastnor, on the south-east, is CASTLE DITCH, the seat of Charles Cocks, Baron Somers of Evesham, whose grand-father married Mary, sister and co-heiress of the great Lord Somers, the illustrious promoter of the Revolution of 1688. His present Lordship was created a Peer in May, 1784. The mansion is situated on a fine lawn, having a rivulet flowing on each side; it is a small plain building of white stone, with a portico in front, and projecting semicircular wings. The contiguous grounds are disposed into walks winding through very thick shrubberies: the Park contains some very large and flourishing oaks, and the surrounding eminences are covered with woods.

Between one and two miles east from Castle Ditch, in a glen of the Malvern Hills, stood BRANSILL CASTLE, now wholly demolished, but originally of a square form, with a round tower at each angle, and a double moat surrounding it. From the appearance of the site, it must have been exceedingly strong: the surrounding scenery is very picturesque and beautiful.

About two miles northward from Bransill Castle, on the summit of one of the highest ridges of the Malvern Hills, and on the very verge of Worcestershire, are the immense works of the HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON, one of the strongest and most important hill fortresses in this Island. The vast labor employed in its construction,

construction, its amazing belts of ramparts and trenches, its great extent, its well-chosen situation, which commands what was anciently the only pass through the Malvern Hills, and which indeed is very nearly so even to the present hour, its singular irregularity of form, and evident dissimilitude to the modes of fortification observed by the Danes, Saxons, and Romans, all combine to establish its origin, which must unquestionably be ascribed to the Britons. The same reasons also evince, that it was not constructed for mere temporary purposes, but rather for permanent security; as a place wherein an entire district might seek refuge, with all their possessions, whether of flocks or herds, in case of invasion, or any other sudden emergency.

It is almost impossible for words to convey a complete idea of this immense strong hold; the works are too vast, the heights too unequal, and the base of the eminence too extensive. The general shape of the hill, at least of that portion occupied by the works, approaches to an ellipsis; and the disposition of the banks and ditches correspond with that figure. The area of the centre, and highest part, is an irregular parallelogram, measuring about sixty yards in its longest diameter, and nearly forty in its shortest: this is surrounded by a high and steep rampart of stones and earth, now covered with turf; and that again defended by a very deep ditch. Considerably below this, on the acclivity of the hill, ranging towards the south-west, or rather south-west by south, is a very extensive *but* work, or bastion, of an oval form, containing a sufficient area for the stowage, and even pasturage, of horses and cattle. This is connected by means of a narrow slip of land, running beneath the south-east side of the upper ditch, with a similar kind of bastion, or out work, ranging eastward, and manifestly intended for similar purposes. Both these works are surrounded by a high rampart and deep ditch; and the inclosed areas have evidently been levelled by art as far as the natural shape of the eminence would admit. Still lower on the acclivity, are successive ranges of ramparts and ditches, very steep, deep, and high, encircling the sides of the mountain, and rendering it nearly, if not utterly, inaccessible.

The

The views from the summit of this majestic work include a vast extent of country; and Herefordshire from this height, assumes a very distinct character to that of the contiguous districts of Worcester and Gloucester. It appears to be composed of an immense continuation of oblong, conical, and irregular hills, principally covered with fine timber; the deep shadows of whose luxuriant foliage project over the most beautiful vales, abounding with orchards, corn-fields, and hop-grounds. The distance in the west, is finely marked by the range of the Black Mountains, and the hills of Radnorshire. The prospects to the east and south east, are yet more extensive, including a very large proportion of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, which appear spread out before the sight, variegated by all the charms of Nature and cultivation. The Herefordshire Beacon itself is most eminently conspicuous for many miles round; and forms an object of uncommon grandeur.

## END OF HEREFORDSHIRE.







